FBIS DAILY REPORT

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OPEC PLANS EMERGENCY OIL PRICE TALKS IF DOLLAR DROPS

LD211554Y Kuwait KUNA Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] Kuwait--OPEC's new secretary general warned here today that the major oil-producing countries may hold emergency meetings to discuss oil prices if the value of the dollar declines any further and inflation continues.

In an interview with KUNA, Rene Ortiz rejected the strong criticism made by the industrial states, led by the United States, of OPEC's decision to increase oil prices in the coming year. He described the reaction to this decision, which increases prices on average by 10 percent throughout 1979, as a hasty reaction. He said that the industrial countries do not appreciate OPEC's moderate and successful decision.

Ortiz, who will assume his new post on 1 January, said the next routine ministerial meeting of OPEC will be held in Geneva next June to reconsider any new drop in the dollar--the dollar which is used as a gage for prices--and to allow the oil ministers to adopt the appropriate and acceptable measures.

However, he added that there is a definite possibility of convening an emergency meeting in the event that economic conditions deteriorate quickly and they cannot wait for the ordinary meeting. In this instance the present chairman of OPEC, Dr Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources of the UAE, is carrying out personal contacts with his colleagues to find out whether there is a desire for such a meeting.

Ortiz, who is from Ecuador, said that the industrial states failed to appreciate the OPEC decision to increase prices, "despite their knowledge of losses suffered by the OPEC countries as a result of the worsening of inflation in the industrial countries and its direct reflection on revenues of the oil-producing countries, and which, above all else, hastened the deterioration of world economic conditions. The situation has been further aggravated by the deterioration in the value of the dollar in comparison with other world currencies."

The OPEC secretary general reproached the industrial countries for not appreciating the motives for the OPEC decision to increase prices and for not showing flexibility toward the organization's decisions, "because they were not irresponsible decisions but the result of a scientific study of economic conditions in the industrial countries and in the OPEC countries." He said: "The OPEC decision took into consideration the fact that oil revenue is the primary means for fulfilling their peoples' requirements, so it can be stated that the industrial countries were hasty in passing judgement on the decision."

Regarding other oil countries joining OPEC, he said: "Each country is free to assess its own political and economic conditions, to decide whether conditions are favorable for joining an international organization such as OPEC, and the organization on its part studies the benefits of accepting new members within this framework."

Ortiz said that the effect of the increase of oil prices on gasoline will be relatively slow because gasoline is governed by supply and demand in the market, as opposed to crude oil, on which price increases have an immediate effect; whether gasoline is affected by the new conditions is linked to conditions in world markets.

Ortiz left Kuwait today after a 3-day visit.

'ARAFAT RETURNS FROM LIBYA, ALGERIA; RECEIVES CSSR DELEGATION

JN211599Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1415 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander-in-chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, arrived in Beirut last night from Damascus after visiting the Libyan Jamahiriyah and Algeria, accompanied by Brother Abu Iyad Salah Khalaf, member of the Fatah Central Committee.

In Damascus yesterday brother Abu 'Ammar received, in the presence of Khalid al-Fahum, chairman of the Palestine National Council, the Czechoslovak delegation currently visiting Syria headed by Comrade Vasil Bilak, member of the Central Committee Presidium of the Czechoslovak Communist Party. The discussion during this meeting dealt with Palestinian-Czechoslovak relations, the current situation on the Arab and international levels, and the lastest developments in the Arab region and the Middle East.

The Czechoslovak delegation expressed the Czechoslovak Government and party's complete support for the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people in their just struggle to regain their usurped rights, determine their own destiny and establish their own independent state on their national soil.

Inspects Israeli Air Attack Sites

JN220858Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0500 GMT 22 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander-in-chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, spent yesterday in an inspection tour of the positions of the joint forces in southern Lebanon. Abu 'Ammar was accompanied by the commander of the joint forces and his assistant. Brother Abu 'Ammar inspected the places that were struck by Zionist fighter planes the day before yesterday.

Brother Abu 'Ammar gave instructions to consider those martyrs who died during the attack as martyrs of the Palestinian revolution. Then yesterday evening, brother Abu 'Ammar presided over a meeting of the general command of the joint forces, where he discussed the recent Zionist aggression on southern Lebanon. Brother Abu 'Ammar also talked about the current situation in the Arab arena.

PALESTINIAN OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON RECENT ISRAELI ATTACKS

JN220916Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 0500 GMT 22 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Brother Abu Jihad, member of the Fatah Central Council and member of the general command of Al-'Asifah forces, commented on the recent Zionist aggression against Palestinian camps and gatherings in southern Lebanon. He said that the Palestinian revolution always expects attacks from the Zionist enemy. Talking to an AFP correspondent, Abu Jihad stressed that the Israelis are trying to contain and eventually end all activities of the fedayeen inside the occupied territories. Abu Jihad reiterated that all the enemy attempts will fail and that the operations of the Palestinian fighters will continue and indeed escalate all over the occupied homeland. Abu Jihad said that yesterday's attack on Qiryat Shemona is only evidence that our strugglers will continue their activities.

KUWAIT

JOINT STATEMENT ON COORDINATION, COOPERATION ISSUED WITH OMAN

LD211453Y Kuwait Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The following joint statement was issued on the visit of the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Sabah, to the Sultanate of Oman:

In response to an official invitation by his brother His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister of the state of Kuwait, paid an official visit between 16 and 20 December 1978. The warm fraternal reception afforded his highness the distinguished guest and the accompanying delegation was a true expression of the firm fraternal relations between the state of Kuwait and the Sultanate of Oman.

On this occasion, his majesty, the great Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, received His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Salim as-Sabah and the accompanying delegation. His highness conveyed to his majesty a message from his brother his highness the amir of the state of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah, affirming the fraternal bonds and the sincere common ties for working toward further cooperation between the two sister countries.

During this visit, talks were carried out in an atmosphere of fraternal understanding and great concern for the security, stability and progress of the gulf region and the Arabian Peninsula. The two sides reviewed all bilateral and Arab relations of common interest.

On bilateral relations, talks were held on the scope of political, economic, education, cultural and information cooperation between the two sister countries.

During the talks, the Kuwaiti side proposed the possibility of agreeing on:

A. The unification of the policy connected with the economic and commercial systems.
B. The coordination of legislation regarding the protection of trade industries.
C. The establishment of joint projects between the two countries.
D. The establishment of a gulf company for airfreight.

The two sides have agreed to study these subjects and to continue consultations and coordination about them. It has also been agreed to hold meetings between responsible officials in the two countries to compare the legislations and regulations as per A. and B.

On the education, cultural and information levels, the two sides expressed their satisfaction with the cooperation and coordination achieved bilaterally within the framework of the cultural agreement between the two countries' governments. They affirmed their desire to continue this cooperation and coordination.

Higher education matters were also discussed. The two sides expressed their readiness to cooperate with other Arab Gulf states to study the possibility of establishing a specialized combined gulf university which would serve the region's development plans through the Arab education office on the gulf states.

When reviewing foreign relations, the two sides referred to the delicate situations surrounding the region. They called for immediate action with a view to reaching the best possible formula for cooperation among its states, a matter which their Islamic faith, historical relations and nature of matters among them, in response to the aspirations of the region's peoples to achieve further progress and stability, render imperative. Toward that end, they affirmed the continuation of efforts through further consultations and coordination among the region's states to lay down a unified political, economic, social and cultural line.

The two sides discussed the conditions of the Arab world and they agreed on exerting every effort to consolidate Arab solidarity, and to realize the total withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, particularly from Jerusalem, and the restoration of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

The two sides expressed their great satisfaction with the outcome of this visit--results that are bound to strengthen cooperation and consolidate the close relations between the two sister countries. Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah as-Sabah expressed his profound gratitude to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id and to the government of the Sultanate of Oman and its people for the warm reception and hospitality accorded him and the members of his delegation. The distinguished guest conveyed to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id, sultan of Oman, an invitation from his brother his highness the amir of the state of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad as-Sabah to visit his second country--Kuwait. His majesty accepted this invitation with thanks, and promised to fulfill it as soon as possible.

PRIME MINISTER RETURNS HOME AFTER GULF STATES VISIT

LD201718Y Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] Kuwait--Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah as-Sabah returned to Kuwait this afternoon from Muscat at the end of his 18-day tour of the Arab Gulf states.

SAUDI ARABIA

CROWN PRINCE FAHD STRESSES NEED FOR MILITARY STRENGTH

LD211100Y Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Statement made to AL-JAZIRAH by Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince and deputy prime minister, and published in AL-JAZIRAH on 21 December--read by announcer]

[Excerpts] We are spending time, effort and money on building up the armed forces in the kingdom; and thence the development project derives its importance and role.

The National Guard in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is an indivisible part of its contemporary history. The fathers and forefathers of these youths in the National Guard today were among those strugglers who, under the great founder, the late His Majesty King 'Abd al-'Aziz, unified the country after it had been divided and built up its forces when they were weak.

I can say that, God willing, we are continuing to develop the National Guard and that we are examining everything that would reassure its members and their children a dignified life, both individuals and families, in training, arming, housing, medical services and education. God willing, they will see a great deal that will please them and their children in the near future.

The present picture appears an ocean of differences and division, a picture that calls for pessimism: International ambitions surround the nation; the Palestinian people are homeless; the major powers handed Palestine to a malicious racist Zionism in the ugliest operation in contemporary history; four wars over 30 years have failed to restore its owners' rights; Arab blood is being shed in Lebanon in the strangest conflict among brothers and kin; peace efforts are stumbling before the amitions of detested racism; strange ideas and principles about the values of this nation and its doctrine are penetrating the minds of its children, and their efforts and strength are being dissipated in harmful ideological conflicts. Therefore the current Arab leaderships find themselves facing the most complex and most difficult Arab and international problems. At home they are facing the need for development; on the Arab level they are facing problems of division, the question of Palestine and so forth; internationally they are facing ambitions that do not cease. Hence the concept of strength emerges as a solution, the strength of internal construction, military strength, the strength of the nation in unity.

I believe that our only course today to resolve all our problems is to achieve strength, the strength of the individual Arab; the achievement of collective strength, the achievement of Arab strength by unifying scattered efforts through further meetings and by deepening our vision of material and spiritual problems, and through forbearance, in an endeavor to unity stands and efforts. We want strength of justice and right and not aggressive and treacherous strength. On our part, we will space no effort until this goal, precious to all of us, is achieved, God willing.

The kingdom's policy toward the Palestinian question had been and continues to be firm and specific, unwavering and unchanged: We support the right of the Palestinian people to return to their land, determine their fate and build their independent state, and the return of the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, to the Arabs; we hold that the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine is the Palestine Liberation Organization. These principles were determined by the Arab nation collectively through the summit conferences.

Our opinion had always been that the achievement of these goals was the only solution to the problem; our opinion was also that given the choice between war and peace, we would choose peace if it would achieve those goals--a peace based on justice and right. When we turn to peace we are made to realize the calamities of war for the peoples of the region and the world; but if war is imposed on us we will not flinch and we will devote all our strength and efforts to it.

We always believe that success in peace or war depends on our strength as a nation, in our unity and in our solidarity. All these facts were on my mind when I was on my way to Baghdad. I went to Baghdad to meet my brothers there for the sake of all my Arab brothers, for the people of Palestine, for the sake of Arab right, Arab well-being and Arab progress and prosperity.

UAE

MAURITANIAN MINISTER LEAVES ABU DHABI AT END OF VISIT

JN211429Y Abu Dhabi EMIRATES NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1325 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 December--Mohamed Mahmoud Ould Ahmed Louly, Mauritanian minister of control and investigations, left Abu Dhabi this afternoon for Riyadh at the end of a 2-day visit to the UAE. During the visit, the Mauritanian minister delivered a written message to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Mauritanian President Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck. The message deals with bilateral relations and Arab issues.

YEMEN--YAR

PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED ON RELATIONS WITH UAE, PDRY, OTHERS

JN212045Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

["Text" of interview of YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Abu Dhabi magazine DIR' AL-WATAN during his recent visit to the UAE]

[Excerpts] Question: What are the aims of your visit to the UAE? What are the topics of mutual interest between the two countries?

Answer: We have strong ties and relations with the UAE. My visit comes within this context and is meant to strengthen these exemplary relations. It also provides an opportunity to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan for his valuable aid in the economic and social development in the YAR.

Question: Do you expect to discuss ways to achieve better cooperation among the Arab Gulf states, particularly cooperation that would affect the restoration of normal relations with the PDRY?

Answer: There is no doubt that my visit is aimed at strengthening and consolidating the ties among the states of the Arabian Peninsula. These ties are based on cooperation, neighborliness, mutual respect and nonintervention in one another's domestic affairs. Regarding the second part of the question, namely the restoration of normal relations with the PDRY, we are all confident that this regime, after having perpetrated the assassination of the late martyred President Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi, is no longer in control of the country. This regime has become a tool for others. This regime has acquired the hobby of wrecking the area's security by exporting sabotage and disturbances. Therefore there is no hope of achieving an accord with this regime, which has renounced its Arabism, religion, history and traditions. Nevertheless, we have reaffirmed that we are against wars and bloodshed, and that we will never be irresponsible adventurers, pushing matters to military confrontations.

Question: How do you hope to develop the Yemeni forces and strengthen their capacilities?

Answer: The process of modernizing and developing the Yemeni forces is continuing and improving as well as is possible. Our aim behind this is to have a force adaquate to defend ourselves and the gains of our republic and land, to ward off any aggression that might befall us, and to realize our slogan that the army is for war and construction. Our forces were built to defend our country and not to initiate wars. Our forces have been developed to perform their pan-Arab duty with honor and efficiency.

Question: What are the sources of arming these forces and are you hopeful of achieving military coordination with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the UAE?

Answer: Our sources of arms are diversified. These sources were confined to the Soviet Union at the inception of the revolution against the defunct regime of the imam. We now have U.S. and French defensive weapons, thanks to the aid of our brothers in Saudi Arabia. Regarding military coordination with the UAE, it is not under discussion because the UAE's aid to us is directed only to development projects.

Questions: What is the nature of existing relations between the YAR and the Sultanate of Oman, Kuwait, Egypt, Syria and Iraq?

Answer: The YAR's relations with its Arab brothers are based on objective cooperation, mutual respect and nonintervention in one another's domestic affairs. Our relations with the aforementioned countries are good.

Some of these relations are being affected by the general Arab situation. This is an exceptional situation that will be rectified when its various factors are eliminated.

Question: How do you view the issue of unity between the two parts of Yemen, what is the basis for this unity, and are you moving in the direction that the late Presidents al-Hamadi and al-Ghashmi moved?

Answer: The unity between the parts of Yemen is a fateful issue. This unity does exist on the popular level. However, it does not exist on the official level. This is due to the fact that the Aden regime is throwing in with imported ideologies which are against Arabism and Islam.

Question: Do you believe that peace can be achieved with Israel under current circumstances? What are the YAR's views on the Palestinian cause?

Answer: We are not trying to outbid any Arab country. Based on this principle, we are not trying to outbid Egypt in its efforts for peace. Our viewpoint regarding the Palestinian cause is clear and frank--we support the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to regain their usurped land, including Jerusalem, and to set up their state. We also support our brothers in their efforts to regain all the occupied Arab territories. We are against Israel and we support all Arab efforts to confront Israel, whether during peace or war. However, it is imperative that we not transform the Arab-Israeli struggle into an Arab-Arab struggle.

Question: What peace would be acceptable to you for solving the Palestinian problem?

Answer: We base our views on this on the Rabat resolutions which dictate that the Palestinian problem must be solved justly and comprehensively as represented by Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and by granting the Palestinian people their legitimate rights to establish their state.

Question: How do you view the new relations between China and the Sultanate of Oman?

Answer: We welcome such relations. China is a friendly country assisting the developing countries and is not interfering in these countries' domestic affairs.

AL-'ARASHI RECEIVES UGANDAN ENVOY, LETTER FROM AMIN

JN2117Z4Y San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Al-Qadi 'Abd al-Karim al-'Arashi, vice president and speaker of the People's Constituent Assembly, today received Mr (Khalid Yunis), personal aide to Ugandan President Idi Amin, accompanied by Major (Bashir Jam'ah), Foreign Ministry under secretary. The Ugandan envoy delivered a letter to Al-'Arashi from His Excellency Idi Amin, president of Uganda, to his brother Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the republic and commander in chief of the armed forces. In a statement to the SABA' NEWS AGENCY, the Ugandan Foreign Ministry under secretary spoke about his visit and said: President Idi Amin has entrusted us with conveying a letter to his brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih dealing with the Ugandan position in its dispute with Tanzania and developments up to now. The under secretary expressed his gratitude for the hospitality accorded him and his colleague during their visit and for their meeting with the vice president. He said that this was the first visit by a Ugandan delegation to the YAR. On bilateral relations he said: Our relations are excellent. There were strong ties between the YAR and Uganda even before Uganda's independence, and there are many Ugandans of Yemeni origin. The meeting was attended by brother Ibrahim al-Kabji, YAR Foreign Ministry under secretary. Al-Kabji hosted a banquet today in honor of the Ugandan delegation. The banquet was attended by brothers Yahya ad-Daghman, personal representative of the YAR president; Lt Col Lufti al-Kilabi, head of the presidential office; and Presidential Secretary Ahmad Ar-Radi.

AS-SADAT ADDRESSES AL-MANSURAH GATHERING

NC211340Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1126 GMT 21 Dec 78 NC

[Speech delivered by President Anwar as-Sadat at a meeting of the local and popular leaders in Al-Mansurah, the capital of Ad-Daqahliyah Governorate--live]

[Text] In the name of God. Brothers, sisters, sons and daughters: I studied German when I was in the detention camp. What mostly attracted my attention when I was studying this language were the examples which express basic human values. I still remember the example that says: To love and to be loved is the greatest blessing in life. [applause]

I thank God Almighty. In the past few hours since my arrival in Ad-Daqahliyah, up to this moment and up to the moment when I will leave your loyal and dear town, I have been living and will continue to live a festival of love. This is true. [applause]

Thanks be to God. No matter how hard I try to express myself or describe my feelings, I will not be able to express or describe the sweetness of the dear, sincere and strong feelings [applause] of this noble people. Ad-Daqahliyah has been the land of heroism and sacrifice throughout history. Ad-Daqahliyah, its production, work, men and women, have been a source of pride for us throughout history. This land is a symbol of love. Love is what our people want to rebuild on the strongest foundations--love and not hatred, fraternity, understanding, vigilance and transcendence of trivialities. All these are lessons which love teaches. I have learned these lessons since setting foot yesterday on the soil of Ad-Daqahliyah.

I convey to all of you my love, appreciation and loyalty. I possess nothing but my life, which is yours, your property. I hope you will convey to every male and female citizen on our dear land in Ad-Daqahliyah my love, admiration and pledge to remain your brother and father. The Egyptian woman, particularly in Ad-Daqahliyah, can always depend on me as the father who will solve all her problems. [applause] Men have expressed themselves but the expression of the woman, the better half of all of us, has been most splendid. [applause]

As you know, I have instructed the social affairs minister to include the woman in the social insurance scheme and to enable her to occupy her proper place in all circumstances of life on an equal footing with man. This is being implemented now. I implore God Almighty to enable me to pay back some of the feelings and love which I reciprocate with all of you. I am happy with this love, which is a source of strength for me.

We are now waging a fierce battle of reconstruction. You have heard me say that these are the sweetest and most glorious days of our life, despite all difficulties and crises we are facing and the difficulties we encounter in the fields of services, food, security and housing. These difficulties are the results of many vestiges of the past period. However, all of this does not detract from our present glories regarding the building of peace, democracy and prosperity.

On the occasion of my visit to you, I want to explain to you and through you to the Egyptian people the latest developments of the situation in the battles for peace, democracy and prosperity.

Regarding the battle for peace, you all know that the talks have been suspended for some time. The United States issued a statement yesterday inviting Egyptian Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Vance and Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan in Brussels. You all know what is being raised in Israel and the Knesset. I really feel sorry. My brother and son, the chairman of the local council, was right when he quoted from the holy Koran regarding when God Almighty ordered the sons of Israel to slay a cow and they argued with him violently. This is the truth of the matter. There is an argument, but the matter is a foregone conclusion. Peace is imperative [applause] and inevitable, God willing. This is so because all the prerequisities [for peace], the initiative and the yearning of all the world, including the people of Israel themselves, will not permit anyone to retreat. However, I am astonished. The Israelis have argued with God Almighty. They are accusing Carter and the United States, which is Israel's lifeline, which supplies it with arms and economic aid and which is courteous to Israel.

I have not spoken about what Carter did for Israel at Camp David. One day Carter worked for more than 13 and 1/2 contiruous hours--from 0800 in the morning until 2230 at night--without even stopping for meals. I have a special friendship with Carter. He exploited every aspect of this friendship, and I appreciate friendship and give it its due. I value morals in this life. A life without morals is worth nothing. Carter exerted every pressure possible for Israel's sake at Camp David. Carter is now being attacked in the Knesset. The United States, which is Israel's lifeline, is also being attacked. A deliberate campaign aimed at misleading and at distorting facts is being waged.

I will not open this subject. Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil will leave this Friday morning to meet with Vance and Dayan in Brussels on Saturday. The course which Egypt has charted--and not just since Camp David but since more than a year ago when I visited the Knesset--has not changed. I am saying this so that some might refrain from shamelessly talking about new things introduced by Egypt. Egypt has introduced nothing new since my visit to the Knesset. Anyone who reads my speech at the Knesset will find out that I said that I was going to the Israelis in the heart of their home not to seek a partial solution, a separate agreement or a third disengagement but to seek a durable and comprehensive peace. This was contained in my speech at the Knesset a year ago. How then can it be said now that Egypt is introducing new elements after Camp David? We have not introduced new elements.

We have two basic points. Let them hear them there, and they are now hearing--I am speaking through you to all my people and to the whole world. There are two points that will not be forsaken. First, the agreement will not be a separate one. There will be a comprehensive peace through which the basic issue, namely, the Palestinian question, will be solved. [applause]

This is a natural matter; that is, it is imperative that the steps to be taken in Sinai be linked to the beginning of the full process of self-rule. Consequently we will forge ahead with implementation of the Camp David resolutions.

The second point is that Israel will have absolutely no privileges. This is something surprising. They said thay had been looking for peace and they filled the world for 30 years with talk about peace. Well, we are now offering peace and, as we said, we are advancing from the largest door with all determination and will. Your expression of support for me coming from the people of Egypt, was a splendid source of pride.

We have offered peace. However, Israel wants through this agreement to achieve a privileged position over the agreements we already have, whether with our brother Arabs or with others. I regret to say: No. Israel wants peace, nay, we want peace. Israel wants peace on an equal footing. I say: Yes, but I will not give Israel or any other power, large or small, a privileged position in Egypt. [applause]

Then, and as the chairman of the local council has said, this is an argument and a struggle. However, and as I have told you, it is only a matter of time. The matter has been concluded and it is settled in this respect.

Before I finish with this point, as I have told you and as a believer in morals, values and in everything which makes life honorable, strong and honest, I am astonished by Israel's behavior. But it seems that this is the behavior of the whole world. I thank God that this behavior has not reached us, because we know sincerity, morals and values.

Carter's problem with Israel is that he is a sincere man who adheres to values. Remember Mr Johnson, who was a U.S. president before Carter. He topped the list of people who extricated themselves from all morals and denied all principles. Israel was pleased with him and he is Israel's best friend. However, all Carter is guilty of is adhering to values, straightforwardness and honesty. [applause]

It seems that there exists in Israel the mentality of the Lavon affair of 1953. It seems that some rulers of Israel, or a large part of them, adhere to the mentality of the Lavon affair. I want to tell them that this does not serve peace; the Lavon mentality does not serve peace. I also want to say something on your behalf and in appreciation of a man who adheres to morals in a world and a conflict in which not all the parties, regrettably, have morals. This man is Carter. God willing, after a study is carried out in the party, I will approach the People's Assembly in order to make a specific announcement on your behalf. This announcement is: For the sake of the Suez Canal, there was a treaty called the 1888 treaty. This treaty oversees the neutrality of the canal. The Soviet Union is a signatory of the treaty, but not the United States. Well, through a decision to be passed by the Egyptian People's Assembly, which expresses the Egyptian peoples will, I will ask the United States to adhere to the 1888 treaty." [applause]

By this I want to tell Carter: Morals, principles and values are appreciated by the Egyptian people. I want to tell him that truthfulness is appreciated by the Egyptian people. This is so because we do not lack morals, values or integrity.

Concerning the second point, namely, the democratic structure, yesterday I addressed the deputies of the National Democratic Party [NDP] and the Socialist Labor Party about the democratic structure which we are setting up. Simply stated, this structure is totally new--and it is imperative for all of us to cooperate together.

After 1923, a certain concept of democracy and party life was created in our country. In accordance with this concept, the parties would engage in strife among themselves. Every party would accuse the other of treachery and treason. The parties represented persons and interests and were tools to allow these parties and interests to accede to power.

This is not democracy as the world knows it. Nor is this party life as the world knows it. This is why we rose up in July 1952 to crush this concept--and we did crush it. Under the recent referendum there is no room for returning to the pre-1952 era. Nor will there be room for the communists or for any of the elements which had belonged to the centers of power, which had spread corruption or which had insulted human dignity. There is no room for any of these people in the battle we are now waging. This battle is the building of democracy as has been approved by the people.

As you have already heard me say, the constant objective of building the parties as understood by democratic parties throughout the world--in the United States, in democratic Western Europe, in England and everywhere--is the prosperity and dignity of the compatriot and the human being. Every party competes with the other party to achieve the maximum prosperity for the citizen as well as the greatest yield and progress. This is what we want to apply. This means that the concept of a view and an opposing view is not a matter of slander, as was the case in the past and during the past two sessions of the People's Assembly, when certain persons stupidly wanted to commit slander. All of these things have finally been abolished. The opposition works for the prosperity, dignity and security of the citizen. Everything is aimed at achieving security, safety, life, dignity and development for the citizen.

On the basis of the above-mentioned premise, it is imperative that democracy should march in all directions. Discussions are not held only in the People's Assembly. Following the recent referendum, the powers have become known and the course has become clear. It is imperative for all the people to pursue this course.

Effective 1 January, God willing, that is, within a few days, we will embark on an experiment which I consider the most important thing we will experience in the next year and, God willing, in coming years. This is that for every governorate one of its sons has emerged. Consequently, every governorate--through one of its sons, in conjunction with the party committee and the local council--will assume responsibility for everything, large and small, within it. This includes all the affairs of the governorate: its allocations, the distribution of these allocations, the planning and building of schools. For instance, if you want a university in your governorate--something needed by the environment--you will open it. You will enjoy complete freedom of will. The purpose of this action is to enable the talents of all the people to surge forth at the same time.

We spent a long period in which each person was afraid either for his freedom, his livelihood or his life. He was unable to achieve anything for his sons or grandsons, either. He was unable to leave anything behind him because he would then be considered a feudalist.

We entered into an era in which everything concerning man was suspect. This is not now the case. Through this democracy we say that everything is for the sake of the Egyptian human being and for the male and female compatriots in Egypt. [applause] Everything must be used for insuring the security of the male and female citizens and for providing them with insurance.

Everything must be used for insuring the livelihood of the male and femal compatriots, for insuring the dignity of the male and female compatriots, and for insuring that the male and female compatriots surge forth. This country can only be built with all our arms. The government cannot do this alone. The People's Assembly, in conjunction with the government, cannot do this. However, all of us--in all positions and in all the governorates--are able to achieve miracles.

As from 1 January, God willing, Cairo will not be able to challenge or make decisions for Ad-Daqahliyah. This is final. [applause]

While erecting our democratic edifice, we hold that the multiparty system is the method that will lead to sound democracy. Furthermore, the views and opposing views are meant for the good of the citizens. These views will not be expressed through slander or vituperation. Regrettably, we saw one aspect of slander and vituperation during the past two sessions of the People's Assembly. Some persons are trying to cling to them to this day. We tell them: All these things have ended.

In addressing you as the largest governorate in Egypt, I declare here and I ask you to declare to the governorate and to the whole of Egypt through you, because Egypt is now listening to me, the downfall of all past feuds that prevailed among families and citizens because of the previous party affiliation, and the turning of a full new page. [applause] This does not in any way mean that the feuding sides that have fallen should join the NDP or any other party. No. The downfall of the feuds is a national matter, at a level at which no parties are involved. It is imperative for us all as one family to discard these feuds once and for all. [applause]

The third point remains to be discussed. It is prosperity. You have heard that when I arrived yesterday, the finance minister was supposed to submit to the People's Assembly on Saturday, the day after tomorrow, the budget statement, God willing.

You all remember that the day before yesterday, I met with the vice president, the prime minister, and the ministers concerned with economy and finance. I reviewed the budget with them. I state the outlines of the budget simply. I also do this through you so that our people will hear and know why I have made this decision.

I have decided that the finance minister's statement will be deferred until next week, because I want to convene a meeting of the party leaders and the NDP parliamentary body to study a very important matter before I present it to you, the people. This matter is: The budget includes three figures that reveal clear directions. One billion pounds is for subsidizing commodities. The purpose is so that the broad base of our people--amid the abominable world inflation in which we find ourselves--will not be burdened by prices. This is so because of the prices abroad and inflation, particularly following the agreed upon oil price increase, to take effect on 1 January. I will convene the meeting for this purpose. The reason is that we do not pay just 1 billion pounds for subsidizing prices [of commodities]. No, next year we will pay more. Why? It is because the oil price increase will be followed by increases in the prices of materials which we buy abroad. Therefore, I will convene the party so that we can submit a clear report to the People's Assembly and to the people in this respect.

As I have said, there are three figures that give clear directions: One billion pounds is for subsidizing commodities, 1 billion pounds is for serving debts, and 1 billion pounds for military expenditure. This is 3 billion pounds. As for the 1 billion pounds for military expenditure, we do not intend to cut back on anything as far as our forces are concerned. The armed forces must be prepared in peace, just as they are in war. [applause] However, in the process of reorganizing the armed forces, particularly after the signing of the agreement, God willing, much saving will take place.

Regarding the subsidies, you know that my opinion in this is that these subsidies should benefit the toiling classes of our people. However, I have discovered that this subsidy is not benefiting the toiling classes but benefiting classes which are not entitled to benefits. [applause] My invitation to the meeting is to adopt a radical decision in order that the prime minister may present it to the parliament, God willing, before the finance minister delivers his statement. The decision should, in accordance with the studies of the technicians and economists, provide that we either give this subsidy directly to the masses in the form of salaries or insurance [applause] or give this subsidy to the needy in the form of ration cards which will be withdrawn from the other quarters or factions which do not need a subsidy. What is important is that the subsidy reach those who deserve it on a periodic basis which brooks no argument or delay because we are embarking on difficult stages.

I have explained this because this is what building prosperity means. I want this prosperity for the citizen. Next year, we will, God willing, establish a system where the citizen, regardless of his income, particularly the citizen in the small overburdened classes, will be able to have his own apartment or house and secure the necessities of life such as a refrigerator, a stove and so forth, through bank facilities. We hope every citizen will be able to live comfortably. As long as we distribute the burdens equally, then all of us must be equal in prosperity, God willing.

This is all I have to say about the three points--the battle of peace, the battle of democracy and the battle of prosperity.

Once again, with all my love, loyalty and appreciation, I am unable to express in words my gratitude for the welcome you accorded to me, men and women of Ad-Daqahliyah. I implore God Almighty to enable me to do everything possible for the family--our family in Ad-Daqahliyah and our family in all Egypt--through love, loyalty, friendship, fraternity and building. May God grant you success and peace be upon you. [applause]

SPOKESMAN DENOUNCES ISRAELI SHELLING OF LEBANON

NC211855Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1840 GMT 21 Dec 78 NC

[Text] A Foreign Ministry spokesman has stated the following:

Although Egypt and the entire world denounced the Israeli aggression against Lebanon yesterday, today Israel again committed another aggression by shelling Lebanese territory with long-range artillery.

The aggression proves that Israel is continuing to violate the rules of international law and endangering the lives of Lebanese civilians and the UN emergency forces in Lebanon. It is also considered a flagrant defiance of the efforts being made by the United States in cooperation with Egypt to remove the obstacles which Israel has placed on the road to achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL LEAVES FOR BRUSSELS

NC220918Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 0905 GMT 22 Dec 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 December--Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil left Cairo this morning for Brussels to meet with Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan at the invitation of U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance in order to reactivate the peace talks in the Middle East.

Dr Mustafa Khalil was seen off by Tourism and Civil Aviation Minister Dr Mahmud Amin 'Abd al-Hafiz, Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Eng Sulayman Mutwalli, Governor of Cairo Sa'd Ma'mun and senior state officials.

GHALI ENDS CONTACTS, MEETS WITH AFRICAN ENVOYS

JN211136Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1110 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Cairo, 21 December--Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, this morning concluded his intensive diplomatic contacts with the ambassadors and representatives in Cairo to inform them of the current situation in the Middle East and to explain the Israeli intransigence, which has led to the hampering of the negotiations. Dr Ghali also informed them of the firm, principled Egyptian position on the comprehensive solution and the necessity of linking the peace agreement concerning Sinai with the future of the West Bank and Gaza.

Dr Ghali today met with the African ambassadors in Cairo. The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by Ambassadors Salah Hasan and Ahmad Tawfiq Khalil, the under secretaries at the Foreign Ministry, and Minister Plenopotentiary 'Imad al-Batt, acting chief of the African Department.

During his meeting with the African ambassadors Dr Butrus Ghali said that the tripartite Brussels meeting scheduled to be held Saturday does not have a specific timetable and that it is aimed at keeping the momentum in the peace efforts and at discussing the way these efforts will continue.

Dr Ghali explained that the Brussels meeting, which will be attended by Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, is being held at the invitation of the United States in confirmation of its role as a full and main partner in the peace negotiations.

During the meeting, Dr Ghali reviewed the dimensions of the Egyptian position from the beginning of the Egyptian-Israeli negotiations in Washington on 21 October and the reasons these negotiations were obstructed, foremost being Israeli intransigence.

During his meeting with the African ambassadors Dr Ghali emphasized Egypt's eagerness to acquaint its African sisters with the developments of the Middle East issue and the negotiations aimed at achieving a comprehensive, just and permanent peace in the area.

In this context, Dr Ghali referred to the tour Presidential Assistant Mamduh Salim is currently making of some West African states. He said that this tour reflects Egypt's appreciation for the African position which has supported Arab rights since 1967. It also reflects Egypt's pride in the support of the African states for Egypt's current efforts to achieve a permanent and just peace in the Middle East.

During the meeting Dr Ghali emphasized Egypt's insistence on adherence to its Arab commitments, particularly in connection with the joint Arab defense pact.

At the end of the meeting, the Liberian ambassador in Cairo, Martinus Johnson, expressed the hope that the peace efforts which are being exerted by Egypt will bear fruit and that the Middle East area will reap the fruit of these efforts.

On behalf of the African ambassadors, Johnson expressed his own gratitude to President Anwar as-Sadat for his interest in acquainting the African states with the developments of the situation.

With this meeting Dr Ghali has, over the past 3 days, met with the ambassadors and representatives of more than 100 states to brief them on the latest developments of the peace process in the Middle East.

INA: ARMED ANTI-AS-SADAT ELEMENTS ARRESTED IN EGYPT

JN211804Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 December--Security forces of the Egyptian regime last week detained a number of Egyptian citizens on charges of belonging to an organization opposed to the policy of capitulation and settlement promoted by the As-Sadat regime and opposed to this regime's falling into the laps of the imperialists and Zionists.

It was announced here today that As-Sadat's security forces confiscated a large amount of weapons and explosives found with those arrested and seized leaflets condemning the Camp David agreements.

Egyptian censors have instructed the newspaper not to publish any news relating to this matter.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON KING HUSAYN'S UK VISIT

Grants Interview to British TV

JN211724Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has called for returning the Middle East issue to the UN Security Council so that the council can reaffirm its position on Resolution 242.

In an interview broadcast on British television last evening, his majesty said that this step would perhaps create an opportunity for all concerned parties to meet with the cochairmen of the Geneva conference, along with some of our European friends, to determine whether it would be possible to regain the momentum toward peace. His majesty stressed the necessity of making efforts at this stage to insure reaching a comprehensive settlement.

His Majesty King Husayn pointed to Israel's current position and said that its position is intransigent on the issue of Jerusalem and the Palestinians.

Callaghan Hosts Dinner

JN212108Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn delivered a speech at a dinner James Callaghan held in honor of his majesty last evening.

After thanking the British prime minister for his welcome, King Husayn pointed out that his studies in the United Kingdom enabled him to become acquainted with the British people's struggle, discipline and courage in ordeals.

His majesty said that Jordan is trying its best to become a suitable example, and to contribute positively to the area's future. His majesty added that Jordan is an ancient country, proud of its heritage and civilization and its contribution to the world. Jordan is seeking to achieve a just peace that will insure stability and tranquility, and will guarantee the future of the coming generations. Such a peace cannot be based on the balance of power at this particular moment, but must be based on justice and respect for peoples' rights. King Husayn said Jordan believes that our friends in Europe must shoulder a special responsibility toward the issue of a just peace in the area by virtue of their close relations to the Middle East. It is normal for us to speak to you about the Palestinian cause, the crux of the confliot in the area. Jordan has agreed to UN Security Council Resolution 242. Jordan has not hesitated to participate in the search for a just peace during all these years. All the Arab countries agreed on a single working program during the recent Arab summit held in Baghdad. We have addressed the world and have said that we support a just peace. For peace to be real, it must be based on justice. Real peace must be based on Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories, on the return of Jerusalem to Arab sovereignty, thus enabling it to become a center of peace, and on the Palestinian people's exercise of all their rights, especially their right to free self-determination.

His Majesty King Husayn stressed that security cannot be achieved throught arms or by seizing lands. Security can only be achieved through a feeling of justice and satisfaction. His majesty added that Jordan does not belittle the peace efforts, but a successful settlement must be based on fundamental principles, some of which are missing at present.

His Majesty concluded by saying that if a settlement is to take place, all its essential elements must be present. This is what should be provided. Europe, the United Kingdom in particular, must shoulder a great responsibility in this respect.

In the welcoming speech delivered at the beginning of the dinner, British Prime Minister James Callaghan expressed his happiness over and welcome for the visit of His Majesty King Husayn to the United Kingdom. Callghan added that fruitful talks were held and preparations for a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East discussed. He said: We believe that there is no hope in a partial settlement, and we support a settlement based on UN Security Council Resolution 242 and on the establishment of a homeland for the Palestinians. We also believe in the necessity of the Palestinian people exercising their legitimate rights.

Callaghan added: Your Majesty, we appreciate the fact that you have adopted a position different from ours on the recent negotiations. However, we believe that our differences are only on means and not on final objectives, because we too support a comprehensive settlement.

Callaghan also said that progress was achieved during the last stage despite everything. Even though current peace efforts have foundered, we must stress positive aspects and push matters forward. Callaghan said that he will soon meet with President Carter and that the viewpoint of His Majesty King Husayn is of interest to him. Callaghan concluded his speech by saying that he hopes King Husayn will use his influence to open the door to a just peace.

Foreign Secretaries Hold Talks

JN211758Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Hasan Ibrahim, minister of state for foreign affairs, met yesterday with David Owen, British secretary of state for foreign and commonwealth affairs. The two sides reviewed the current international situation, the Middle East conflict and efforts to achieve a comprehensive settlement in the area. They also reviewed bilateral relations in the spheres of culture and economy, and means to develop these relations. The meeting was attended by Jordanian Ambassador in London Ibrahim 'Izz ad-Din and a number of British officials.

JORDAN, PLO REPORTEDLY TO REACH AGREEMENT ON RELATIONS

JN210950Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 21 December--The newspaper AL-FAJR published here today reports that the Jordanian Government and the PLO are about to conclude a comprehensive agreement defining relations between them. It should be recalled that a PLO delegation under PLO Executive Committee member Hamid Abu Sittah is currently visiting Amman.

PLO Delegation Concludes Visit

JN211938Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The PLO delegation led by Hamid Abu Sittah, PLO Executive Committee member, left Amman this afternoon via Ar-Ramtha at the end of a visit of several days to Jordan. During the visit, the PLO delegation held talks with Jordanian officials on the best ways to support the kinfold in the occupied Arab territories.

Abu Sittah expressed the appreciation of the members of the PLO delegation to Jordanian officials for the sentiments of brotherhood and cooperation they have shown.

The PLO delegation was seen off by a number of officials of the executive bureau for the occupied territories and by a representative of the Foreign Ministry.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON ISRAELI BOMBARDMENT OF LEBANESE TOWNS

Bombardment of An-Nabtiyah Ends

JN211207Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1156 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 Dec--The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reports that the artillery bombardment of An-Nabatiyah and its suburbs stopped at 1230 today.

The correspondent reports that fires are still ablaze in several quarters that were the target of the shelling and that preliminary estimates indicate that there are at least 10 casualties and that three wounded persons were transported to hospitals in Sidon.

The INA correspondent adds that the bombardment of the Al-'Urqub area has led, as official security reports indicate, to the killing of at least one person and the wounding of 14 others.

The INA correspondent says that the enemy has been active in the airspace of the border area following its bombardment operations. Enemy reconnaisance planes flew over southern Lebanese towns along the border strip up to the coastal city of Sidon.

Israeli Force Inside Lebanon

NC212113Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Dec 78 NC

[Text] According to reports arriving from the south, the Israeli shelling of several southern villages stopped this afternoon. Israeli artillery this morning shelled a 20 km-long sector in the An-Nabatiyah area.

Reports say that an Israeli armored force took up a position in the Al-'Urqub region on the lower slopes of Mount Hermon inside Lebanese territory following an exchange of fire with Norwegian forces serving with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

Shelling Continues

JN211807Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1743 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 Dec--The INA correspondent in southern Lebanon reported this evening that Zionist artillery shells continued to fall intermittently over the areas of Arnun, (Yahmar) and Rihsh'in. However, the intensity of the shelling has decreased from what it was earlier.

The correspondent reported that Zionist gunboats continue to patrol the sea off the southern coast and that the joint forces are on alert in preparation for any attack. The UN forces are also on alert and have blocked several roads in southern Lebanon.

The correspondent added that the number of citizens fleeing border villages for As-Zahrani and Beirut has increased during the past 24 hours.

Casualty Report

NC211312Y Voice of Lebanon [Clandestine] in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 21 Dec 78 NC

[Excerpt] Reports also indicate that according to yesterday's and today's surveys following the Israeli raids, 24 people have been wounded and five killed.

The governor of the south today visited Speaker Kamil al-As'ad and Prime Minister Salim al-Huss to brief them on the losses in lives and property resulting from the Israeli raids.

PALESTINIAN MILITARY COMMUNIQUE ISSUED ON BORDER SHELLING

JN211448Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1415 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] The military spokesman of the general command of the Palestinian revolution forces has stated the following: At about 0800 on Thursday 21 December 1978, the Zionist enemy opened artillery fire on the border villages in southern Lebanon, causing some losses in lives and material.

In reply to this, one of our missile units shelled Zionist artillery positions in the area of the village of Qiryat Shemona. The bombardment caused heavy losses among the enemy ranks.

The Zionist enemy is continuing intermittent artillery shelling of the border villages in southern Lebanon.

COMPLAINT SUBMITTED TO UN ON ISRAELI ATTACKS

NC220711Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 Dec 78 NC

[Text] On 21 December Lebanon submitted a complaint to the United Nations about unjustified Israeli attacks and reserved the right to call for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council. In a message to UN Secretary General Dr Waldheim, Lebanon's representative Ghassan Tuwayni said three people were killed and 16 injured on 20 December when eight Israeli planes dropped cluster bombs in a 30-minute raid and strafed an area extending from 'Adlun to Burj ash-Shamali in the south, destroying a number of houses.

Tuwayni said one civilian was killed and four wounded when the Israeli artillery shelled Lebanese Army units stationed in Kawkaba on 21 December. He added that the areas of Al-Qulay'ah, Arnun and An-Nabatiyah were later shelled while Israeli planes flew over the region. He said that the extent of the damage there is not yet known.

In his message Tunwayni said that the Lebanese Government wishes to submit a strong protest against these unjustified attacks. He said that these attacks are a flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty, international law and the Lebanese-Israeli armistice agreement. He added: We also denounce this attack, which occurred at a time when the Security Council, the secretary general and the UN peace-keeping force in Lebanon were actively working for stabilizing the situation in southern Lebanon and fully implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426, which aim at establishing a zone of peace in the area.

Tuwayni said the unjustified Israeli attacks can only be considered as another attempt to obstruct the peace efforts being undertaken by the United Nations. Concluding his message, he said that the Lebanese Government reserves the right to call for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council if this becomes necessary.

PHALANGISTS, FRANJIYAH'S SUPPORTERS CLASH IN N. LEBANON

JN211245Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1248 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 21 Dec--Fierce armed clashes took place today between members of the rightwing Phalangist Party and the supporters of former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah in Al-Batrun in northern Lebanon.

The INA correspondent reports that the clashes took place in the suburbs of the mountainous town of Shibtin which is east of the city of Al-Batrun. Heavy arms were used in the clashes. No information is yet available on the losses or casualties.

The correspondent points out that the town of Shibtin which is the constituency of Phalangist deputy George Sa'adah, member of the Phalangist Party Politburo, is regarded as one of the most important strongholds of the Phalangists in northern Lebanon.

BRAZIL REPORTEDLY TO CONTRIBUTE CONTINGENT TO UNIFIL

JN210958Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Dec--Citing informed sources at the United Nations, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-ANBA' reports that Brazil will send a contingent of its forces to work within the UNIFIL forces in southern Lebanon, replacing the Iranian force, which will be withdrawn from that area.

The paper says that diplomatic sources have confirmed that contacts are underway with the Brazilian Government in this connection and that the Brazilian Government has agreed in principle to this.

BUTRUS EXPLAINS APPOINTMENT OF KHURI AS DEFENSE MINISTER

NC211500Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 21 Dec 78 NC

[Text] The foreign minister today explained what is meant by the army commander assuming the defense portfolio while retaining the post of army commander.

The foreign minister said: All the decrees which have been issued since 1952 and up to the present, whether by the late President Fu'ad Shihab, Yusuf Shumayt, 'Adil Shihab, or Iskandar Ghanim, have all included the following clause: while keeping his present post.

The decree appointing the army commander as defense minister has been issued in accordance with this practice.

The foreign minister said: It is beneficial at the present time that the Defense Ministry and the army command be assigned to one person--it will make the ministry and the army more efficient and facilitate the reorganization of this institution.

SYRIAN, IRAQI POPULAR BODIES HOLD MEETING IN DAMASCUS

JN211636Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1320 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 21 December--The Iraqi-Syrian popular and vocational federations and organizations resumed their meetings here today to prepare a unified working paper aimed at organizing their activities and drafting regulations on the pan-Arab and international levels within the framework of the objectives laid down by the Joint Charter for National Action between Iraq and Syria.

The first joint session was held last evening under Ghanim 'Abd al-Jalil, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member, and Yusuf al-As'ad, member of the Syrian political command.

Al-Asad Receives Iraqi Delegation

JN211638Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1350 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 21 Dec--At 1300 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received Comrade Yusuf al-As'ad, director of the regional peasants' bureau and head of the Syrian side to the meetings of the vocational and popular organizations; and Ghanim 'Abd al-Jalil, Iraqi Revolution Command Council member and head of the Iraqi side to the meetings.

The discussion during the meeting revolved around the objectives of this expanded meeting which constitutes a significant step along the road of implementing the Charter for Joint National Action between the two fraternal countries.

The heads of the two delegations explained to the president the work of the expanded meeting. President al-Asad praised the efforts being made at this meeting. The discussion also dealt with developments in the Arab area.

SYRIAN, CZECHOSLOVAK POLITICAL PARTIES SIGN COOPERATION PROGRAM

JN211526Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--A program of cooperation for the next 2 years was signed in Damascus today between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Czechoslovak Communist Party [CPCZ]. The program was signed for the Ba'th Party by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the party, and for the CPCZ by Comrade Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium of the CPCZ Central Committee.

Following the signing of the cooperation program, Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar made a speech in which he expressed pleasure at what was achieved during the visiting delegation's visit. He stressed that the visit represents a serious step toward strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and countries for the sake of achieving a just peace in the Arab region and the world and eliminating Zionist and imperialist influence.

Comrade Bilak made a speech in which he asserted his country's firm position in support of the Arab nation's struggle to liberate its occupied territory and to regain the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, including their right to determine their own destiny and establish their own independent state.

Czechoslovak Delegation Concludes Visit

JN211729Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--Vasil Bilak, member of the Presidium of the Czechoslovak Communist Party and secretary of the party Central Committee, and the delegation accompanying him left Damascus at noon today at the end of a 5-day visit to Syria at the invitation of the national command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The delegation was seen off by Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

In a predeparture statement, Bilak praised the relations of cooperation and friendship between the two countries. He reiterated his country's solidarity with Syria in its struggle for its just issues and for the issues of the entire Arab nation. Bilak also praised President Hafiz al-Asad's firm policy. He wished Syria further success and progress under the Ba'th Party

He described the talks between the two parties as successful and positive on all levels.

SYRIA DECLARES SUPPORT FOR ALGERIA AGAINST OUTSIDE PLOTS

JN211250Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1224 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry has stated the following: At a time when the eyes of the Arab nation are focused on fraternal Algeria with prayers for the recovery of President Houari Boumediene from his illness, in recognition of what the Algerian revolution, under his leadership, has done for the Arab cause; and also in recognition of the honorable pan-Arab stands that Boumediene has maintained during the many difficult circumstances that faced the Arab nation; at this very difficult time, certain circles are trying to harm Algeria, its revolution and pan-Arab policy by various means, bordering on open plotting against that fraternal country and interfering in its internal affairs.

The Syrian Arab Republic, which is bound to the fraternal Algerian republic by ties of pan-Arab obligations, and to the Algerian leadership by hands of brotherhood and mutual responsibility, affirms that it is standing by the Algerian leadership and is placing all its capabilities at its disposal to deal with any attempt to encroach upon that country and its national safety or to interfere in its internal affairs. The Syrian Arab Republic also affirms that the distance between the two countries will not be an obstacle to adopting the measures that the Algerian leadership deems fit to enable us to fulfill our pan-Arab obligations toward that fraternal country.

AL-ASAD RECEIVES DELEGATION OF AMERICAN ARABS

JN211532Y Damascus Comestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1100 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the delegation of the National Association of American Arabs headed by Dr Hisham Sharabi. The president welcomed the delegates to Syria and thanked them for their efforts in support of the just issues of their motherland.

The president spoke to the members of the delegation about the situation in the Arab area. He pointed out that the Camp David course cannot lead to peace in the Middle East and that the most it can achieve is the signing of a separate agreement. What Israel aims at through this course is to force Arab surrender, not to achieve peace. The president added: Israel, which is trying to force Arab surrender, is also trying to force the world to accept certain false theories, such as that of secure borders. We will continue to confront these attempts and theories.

The president continued: We want a real and just peace which will restore all the rights of the Arabs; we want a peace which is not subject to the will of Israel, but the peace which has been known throughout the ages. The president spoke to the delegates about the situation in Lebanon and the efforts that Syria is exerting for the well-being of Lebanon. The president stressed: In fulfilling our fraternal, pan-Arab and humanitarian duty, we are helping all the Lebanese. We consider the Lebanese citizens as part of our nation. Our sympathy for them is the same as that for any Syrian.

Speaking on behalf of the delegation, Dr Hisham Sharabi thanked the president and expressed the delegates' understanding and support of Syria's honorable stand in Lebanon as well as their absolute backing for the Syrian stand on the Palestine question and the Arab cause. Dr Sharabi said: The strategy pursued by Syria under the leadership of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has proved correct and sound. Dr Sharabi congratulated the president on the Joint Charter for National Action between Syria and Iraq and on the Arab summit resolutions. During this meeting, the two sides stressed the need to strengthen Arab expatriates' ties with the motherland.

PAPER COMMENTS ON EGYPTIAN REACTION TO RECENT ISRAELI ATTACKS

JN220737Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Dec 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] In its column "Behind the Events," the AL-BA'TH daily headlines its commentary "The U.S. Peace and New Palestinian Bloodshed." The paper says: Official information sources in Cairo did not fail to draw a connection between recent Israeli aggression on several Palestinian positions in southern Lebanon and the escalating activities of the Palestinian resistance. Moreover, Cairo information circles considered the Israeli aggression a reaction to fedayeen attacks inside the occupied territories. These activities have left Israeli "victims," as the various Egyptian radios literally said. AL-BA'TH adds: While the Egyptian Foreign Ministry expressed regret for the new Israeli aggression, official sources in Cairo were leaving no room for argument and thus reiterating that Cairo is committed to the Israeli excuse for this aggression. Although the official statement in Cairo tried to explain that such Israeli actions are absolutely incompatible with what had been agreed upon at Camp David, this same statement has not elaborated on the points reached by the two sides--Israel and Egypt--with regard to such procedures as took place 2 days ago when Israel attacked civilian Palestinian camps in southern Lebanon. However, AL-BA'TH says, no one would be surprised at this official Egyptian statement, particularly since it falls within the framework of the new Egyptian-Israeli relations that have ensued from the Camp David meetings. In this regard we must point out that the recent Israeli attack has gained implicit U.S. approval, which is evident from various statements made by official U.S. spokesmen. Those spokesmen have taken up the same Israeli excuses justifying the attack. All this can be an essential part of the Israeli-U.S. deal, particularly since Tel Aviv and Washington are playing divergent roles, ranging from talk about U.S. pressure on Israel to Washington's periodic disregard of serious Israeli practices that might jeopardize the situation in the area. Regardless of all possible interpretations of the divergent roles of the Israeli-U.S. sides, everyone must admit that the Palestinians or Lebanese who were killed or wounded 2 days ago are the victims of U.S. weapons--whether fighter planes or cluster bombs--that were used in the attack.

ALGERIA

ALGERIAN OPPOSITION LEADER DISCUSSES 'DEMOCRATIC CHANGE'

LD202124Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Husayn Ayat Ahmad, an Algerian opposition leader, told a Swiss news agency correspondent that the opposition is now trying to unify its ranks to bring about a true democratic change in Algeria. He expressed the hope of the Algerian opposition that the democratic forces working in government institutions including the army will be able to impose reasonable liberalization which will make it impossible to reestablish the present dictatorship and fascism now in Algeria.

Ayat Ahmad referred to the Algerian leaders who are under detention or house arrest or in exile. He mentioned in particular Bin Billah, who is still detained, Bin Khaddah who is under house arrest, and Farhat Abbas who is sick but who is not allowed by the authorities to leave the country for treatment.

LIBYA'S JAHIR ARRIVES IN ALGIERS, MET BY BOUTEFLIKA

LD201700Y Tripoli JANA in English 1402 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Algiers, Dec 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir arrived in Algiers yesterday to enquire about the latest development in President Houari Boumediene's health condition.

He was received at the airport by Abdelaziz Bouteflika the Algerian minister of foreign affairs, the minister of justice and Colonel Abdelwahid al-Atrash, secretary-general of the Ministry of Defence.

Lieutenant-Colonel Mohamed Allak, commander of the Algeria sector, Mohamed Sharif Mussaidah head of the party information committee and the Jamahiriyah's embassy staff in Algeria were also there to receive him.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI: 'REVOLUTION NO LONGER ISOLATED'

LD201740Y Tripoli JANA in English 1435 GMT 20 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, December 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great 1st of September Revolution and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has affirmed: "The revolution in Libya is no longer isolated, as is the case with other coups [as received] and revolutions staged in the world which start on a broad basis and then shrink until they become embodied in one individual, then they wither away with the collapse of a certain individual."

Colonel al-Qadhdhafi pointed out: "There is a new generation of revolutionaries who have started to appear now and to join the revolutionary committees, the people's congresses, and the vocational congresses in the schools and institutes. These facts are cause for much rejoicing and optimism."

At the evening session, yesterday, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi said: "The most important achievement that has been realized on the Great 1st of September Revolution's land is the total transition of power to the people which is not an easy task as it has been accomplished through struggle, hard work and sweat.

AL-QADHDHAFI DEFINES HIS VIEW ON TERRORISTS

DW201128Y Bonn DIE WELT in German 20 Dec 78 p 4 DW

[Manfred Schell report on a talk between Libya's general secretary of the General People's Congress Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and six correspondents from the Federal Republic in Tripoli, presumably on 18 December]

[Excerpt] Al-Qadhdhafi arrives at 2145 hours, wearing a patterned shirt, light grey trousers, and a dark jacket. He speaks Arabian only--a secretary of the Europe Department who had studied in Hamburg is translating. The bilateral relations are good, Al-Qadhdhafi opines, time and again interrupting his replies with pauses and a fleeting smile. But it cannot be denied that the Palestinian problem is being differently judged. Probably it is "historical reasons" which have led to a situation on the German side where the right of the Palestinians is not understood.

Asked about cross connections between the PLO and the RAF [Rote Armee Fraktion--German terrorist gang], Al-Qadhdhafi said that he knows nothing about that, nor about the motives of the German terrorists, but then making a differentiation after all: "Why has the PLO been admitted to the United Nations Organization? It is not logical to say that the United Nations Organization admits an organization which is terrorist. Why has the RAF not admitted?" The different assessment of the Palestinian issue, however, will not prevent a cooperation of the two countries "in the field of security policy." [quotation marks as received]

Asked by DIE WELT where he draws the line between liberation movements and terrorists, Al-Qadhdhafi replied: "What matters in the case of the former is the liberation of an occupied country and the return of an expelled people. A terrorist merely sees his personal gain. He is an end to himself." When a hint was made to his private visit to Germany, Al-Qadhdhafi answered: "I have never been in Germany."

MAURITANIA

PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR OMVS MEETING IN MALI

PA201252Y Paris AFP in French 1503 GMT 19 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Nouakchott, 19 Dec (AFP)--Mauritanian chief of state Col Moustapha Ould Mohamed Saleck left Nouakchott on Tuesday for Bamako where he will participate, beginning 20 December, in the summit meeting of the OMVS (Senegal River Development Organization), which is made up of Mauritania, Mali and Senegal. President Saleck is accompanied by several members of his government, primarily Foreign Minister Cheik Ould Mohamed Laghdar, Interior Minister Maj Jiddou Ould Saleck, Rural Development Minister Ba Oumar and Equipment Minister Lt Col Ahmed Salem Ould Sidi.

MOROCCO

RELATIONS ESTABLISHED WITH BAHAMAS, JAMAICA

LD220740Y Rabat MAP in English 1205 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Text] Rabat, 21 Dec, (MAP)--Morocco and the Bahamas decided to establish diplomatic relations to strengthen ties between the two countries.

Morocco also decided to establish diplomatic relations with Jamaica Republic.

MINISTER REPORTS ON OIL PROSPECTING RESULTS, PLANS

LD151723Y Casablanca LE MATIN in French 2 Dec 78 p 3 LD

[MAP report: "Oil Reserves Contained in Oil Shales Amount to 10 Billion Tons"]

[Text] According to the Qatar magazine DIARUNA WA AL'ALAM, [Moroccan] Energy and Mining Research Minister Moussa Saadi has estimated oil reserves contained in oil shales at 10 billion tons.

The minister stated that prospecting has revealed oil in Morocco's northern region and "off shore" at a distance of some 100 miles from the coast.

The magazine, which is published by the Qatar Finance Ministry, adds that Mr Saadi believes that the question of Morocco's becoming a member of either OPEC or the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries is premature, since Moroccan oil has not yet reached a stage where it could be marketed on a large scale, and this is a qualification necessary to become a member.

Mr Saadi also recalled that deposits of oil which could be produced on a commercial basis were discovered as far back as 1934 in Morocco and that prospecting has been resumed during the past 2 years.

He added that Morocco is not only interested in oil and phosphates but also attaches great importance to coal, which accounts for 12 percent of the country's basic energy, and to oil shales and water and solar power.

Mr Moussa Saadi stated that oil consumption in Morocco amounts to 4.5 million tons of crude, imported from Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Iran and the Soviet Union. The minister said that Morocco would soon start extracting uranium present in its phosphates, whose deposits have been assessed at 75 percent of world reserves.

According to the magazine, Mr Saadi did not express any views on the possibility that Morocco could suggest the creation of an organization of phosphates-exporting countries.

However, he pointed out that cooperation exists among Arab producer countries, namely, Tunisia, Egypt, Jordan and Morocco.

In conclusion, the minister stated that the difficulties encountered at present with respect to the development of trade exchanges between Maghreb and Machrek countries are mainly a result of inadequate shipping facilities.

SUDAN

PRESIDENT NUMAYRI, ETHIOPIA'S MENGISTU TO MEET SOON

JN181127Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 18 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Dec--It was learned here today that President Numayri, chairman of the OAU, and Lt Col Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of the Provisional Military Administrative Council in Ethiopia, will meet sometime within the next few weeks. This meeting will be within the framework of the efforts carried out by the committee stemming from the African summit conference to restore normal relations between Sudan and Ethiopia.

President Numayri recently told the people's assembly that he is determined to continue all efforts, in his capacity as OAU chairman, to peacefully settle the Eritrean issue without any interference by the superpowers. The 15th African summit formed a seven-member committee headed by Sierre Leone and made up of Zambia, Algeria, Senegal, Zaire, Cameroon, and Gabon to draw up the best methods to solve the conflict between Sudan and Ethiopia.

Moreover, the head of the followup committee to implement the resolutions of the 15th African summit recently said that the forthcoming talks between President Numayri and Lieutenant Colonel Mengistu will center mainly on the Eritrean issue in an attempt to reach an acceptable settlement. He expected the meeting to take place in either Freetown or Nigeria.

Numayri Sends Message to Mengistu

AU212045Y Rome ANSA in English 1950 GMT 21 Dec 78 AU

[Text] Addis Ababa, Dec 21 (ANSA)--Sudan's charge d'affaires in this capital (M. Mirghani) handed Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam a special message from President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri here yesterday, it has been learned here. The contents of the message were not disclosed but both Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu and (Mirghani) stressed the importance of preserving the long-standing relations between the two neighbouring countries during their meeting at the Grand Palace yesterday.

Relations between the two countries have been severely strained in recent years because of complaints by leaders of the two countries that each is harbouring elements hostile to the other. Informed sources believe the message from President Numayri deals with a proposal for a meeting between the two heads of state. This [is] a prospect [that] was raised in recent reports by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) and the SUDAN NEWS AGENCY. It was not known whether the Organization of African Unity (OAU) which has named a nine-nation mediation committee to reconcile the differences between the two countries would be involved in the proposed meeting.

Nevertheless, sources expect that the question of Eritrea and the future of thousands of Eritrean refugees in the Sudan would be the central issue in any conference between President Numayri and Lieutenant-Colonel Mengistu.

NUMAYRI DISCUSSES AID WITH FRG ENVOY

LD211907Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD/EA

[Summary] President Numayri today received the FRG ambassador to Sudan. They reviewed the progress of German aid projects and the possibility of Bonn's financing projects to improve Khartoum's sewage, water and electricity systems.

MINISTER BRIEFS UK AMBASSADOR ON NUMAYRI'S TOUR

JN161731Y Khartoum SUNA in English 1720 GMT 16 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Dec. 16 (SUNA)--State foreign minister briefed the British ambassador here today on the outcome of President Numayri's recent visit to Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Kenya and Burundi.

He also touched on efforts made by Numayri in his capacity as OAU chairman to settle the Ugandan-Tanzanian border conflict and to support Zambia in its struggle against the racist Rhodesian regime.

The ambassador, D.C. Carden, in turn highlighted his government efforts in finding a peaceful settlement convenient to all parties involved on the Rhodesian problem.

SSU OFFICIAL DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH LIBYA

JN201339Y Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 20 Dec 78 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 20 Dec--Abu al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, first vice president and secretary general of the Sudanese Socialist Union [SSU], yesterday received the Sudanese ambassador to Tripoli. Ibrahim and the ambassador reviewed Sudanese-Libyan relations and means to further strengthen these relations.

During the meeting, the discussion concerned several issues related to national unity and the arrival of some of the brothers who returned to the homeland.

MINISTER DISCUSSES AID FOR MASS MEDIA WITH U.S. OFFICIAL

LD151558Y Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 15 Dec 78 LD/EA

[Summary] Ali Shummu, minister of culture and information, yesterday received the director of the U.S. cultural center in Khartoum for discussions on the aid which the USA can contribute to improving Sudan's mass media. The talks were held within the framework of the report recently presented to the UNESCO conference in Paris by John Reinhardt, director of the U.S. International Communication Agency. The report recommended steps that might be taken to eliminate the disparity in the performance of communications media in developing countries.

The U.S. official expressed his understanding of Sudan's needs and said he would convey the minister's concrete proposals to the authorities in Washington.

WESTERN SAHARA

POLISARIO OFFICIAL REPORTS ON DETENTION CAMP IN ALGERIA

LD182359Y Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 18 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The Society of Saharan Descendants has announced that a POLISARIO official, Mr (Abd al-Hadi Ould Ahmed Salim), managed to escape from the Algerian armed forces which were guarding Tindouf camps and to return to the motherland, Morocco. Mr (Abd al-Hadi Ould Salim) made statements about the painful conditions for Saharan inhabitants in Algerian detention centers. He stressed that several camps witnessed clashes among the Algerian soldiers themselves.

The statement which the society has published in this connection says that (Abd al-Hadi Ould Ahmed Salim) managed to join the ranks of the society, coming from the Algerian Sahara where several detention camps are being erected. Citizen (Ahmed Salim) reached Al-Farisiyah after several days' walking; he presented himself to the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces.

The statement adds that Mr (Salim) stressed that the situation, which began to get out of the control of officials when Boumediene's illness was known, has deteriorated with the recent reports of the death of Colonel Boumediene. He added that there were confrontations recently at detention camps in Tindouf among the Algerian soldiers who come from different regions; there were several dead and scores injured.

The testimony of Mr (Abd al-Hadi Ould Ahmed Salim), who said he was prepared to meet the committee of sages to tell them about the true situation in the Tindouf camps, shows that the strong tension in southern Algeria can at any time become a conflict whose first victims will be the Saharan families detained in Tindouf. Furthermore, the deterioration of the political situation in Algeria can have grave consequences for the fate of the Saharan citizens who are detained in Tindouf.

BEGIN ON CHINA-U.S. RELATIONS, IDF AIR STRIKE

TA211510Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Prime Minister Menahem Begin refused to react today to the U.S. decision to establish diplomatic relations with China, which involved breaking a defense pact with Taiwan. He only said: Israel is not Taiwan. The prime minister made this remark at a luncheon given in his honor by foreign correspondents in Israel. This is the first time that the prime minister has reacted, even indirectly, to this matter. There is no room for conparison, Begin said.

The prime minister said that yesterday's air force raid on terrorist bases in southern Lebanon was a legitimate act of national defense. We do not accept the unjust comparison made by the United States between the air attack and bloody aggression by terrorists in Israel. The prime minister added that we know well who is responsible for the terrorist attacks, such as that perpetrated this morning in Qiryat Shemona, and it is inconceivable that Jewish blood will be shed without those responsible being punished.

BEGIN: WE ARE PREPARED TO DISCUSS ARTICLE IV

TA211614Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 21 Dec 78 TA

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin has said that the United States surprised us when Cyrus Vance submitted four Egyptian proposals to modify the peace treaty, especially since no one had cunsulted us before hand. Begin added that we are prepared to resume negotiations on Article IV of the treaty--which Egypt wishes to modify--so as to enable a reexamination of security arrangements in Sinai in 5 years. We are prepared to sign the agreement today and, therefore, the proposals must now come from the other side.

The prime minister made these remarks at a luncheon given in his honor by foreign correspondents in Israel.

OBSERVERS: U.S. WANTS 'SUBSTANTIVE' TALKS IN BRUSSELS

TA221005Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 22 Dec 78 pp 1, 2 TA

[By Yosef Harif]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance's chief assistants on Middle Eastern affairs, Harold Saunders and William Quandt, will accompany him to the meeting in Brussels between Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil. Observers regard this as a further indication that the United States is striving to turn that meeting into something which goes beyond only procedural matters.

These observers point out that, for merely procedural matters, the U.S. Secretary of State did not have to go to the trouble of participating in the meeting.

Several signs indicate that the United States has begun to fear the collapse of the talks and that it recognizes the tactical mistakes it made in the last few days which created a credibility gap between it and Israel. At the meeting in Brussels tomorrow night, Cyrus Vance will try to lead the talks along a practical path and it is believed that he will bring with him ideas on how to overcome the differences between the parties.

It was repeated in Jerusalem this morning that Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan was not authorized to conduct a substantive discussion and, in any case, he could not deviate from the cabinet decision made on 21 December without first discussing the issue with the cabinet.

A poll published 2 days ago in the United States points out the criticism there of President Carter's moves and achievements in foreign policy, and it looks as if, after a second thought, the administration has drawn the conclusion that by one-sidedly supporting Egypt in the last crisis and by totally ignoring Israel's arguments it did not help to advance the Middle East negotiations.

This appears to be the background to the message U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance sent to Prime Minister Menahem Begin yesterday. This message does not discuss the matters in dispute and it was intended primarily to remove misunderstandings between the administration and Israel following the furor created by the words of "the senior official" (whom everyone agrees was Vance himself) to the effect that the Israeli Cabinet's announcement was distorting the facts and intended to mislead public opinion.

It is being said in Jerusalem that these peace-making attempts will no longer be able to influence the cabinet's position since it is bitterly disappointed with the way the United States is fulfilling its role as a mediator. Indeed, if the United States recognizes the mistakes it has made which have hurt Israel, then it must prove this in reality and not wish conciliatory words sent in confidential messages, senior sources in Jerusalem said.

At a meeting yesterday with U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis that lasted over an hour, Begin reiterated Israel's position and did not conceal harsh criticism of the U.S. administration.

As for Secretary Vance's claim that Israel did not accept the accompanying letter (the discussion over which has led to the crisis in the talks), the prime minister maintains that the letter does not constitute part of the peace treaty and, consequently, the United States cannot claim that Israel has not accepted the treaty proposal based on the U.S. draft.

At the cabinet meeting on Sunday, the prime minister will review the latest political developments and will provide details on the U.S. initiative aimed at renewing the talks.

A discussion may also take place on Sunday on the need to launch a campaign of fleshing-out activity in the Judaea and Samaria settlements and on the need to establish new settlements, mainly in the Golan Heights and the Jordan Valley.

DAYAN TAKING NO NEW PROPOSALS TO BRUSSELS

TA211600Y Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Nebrew 1510 GMT 21 Dec 78 TA

[From the IDF Afternoon Newsreel]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan is not taking new Israeli proposals to the meeting in Brussels. Political sources said that Dayan would repeat Israel's willingness to sign the draft peace treaty agreed upon on 11 November and would again express Israel's rejection of Egyptian demands for interpretative comments to this draft. Our political correspondent Yosi 'Abadi reports: [begin recording]

Regarding the meeting in Brussels, Jerusalem is repeatedly saying that the ball is in the Egyptian court. Continuation of negotiations depends on the proposals that Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil will take to Brussels. Political sources expect that Khalil will say that Egypt will back down on the demand for interpretative comments and voice a willingness to sign the draft treaty agreed on 11 November and endorsed by the Israeli Government.

For this reason and because the talks are slated to deal with procedures and not with substantive issues, Dayan is not going to raise substantive proposals--despite the fact that he expects such proposals from the Egyptian side.

Dayan said this week that he will not propose the resumption of the talks unless it is with an Egyptian awareness that Israel rejects outright Egypt's latest demands.

Jerusalem defines procedure as the determination of the way to conduct substantive talks, the level of the negotiators and the location and nature of the talks. As to the level of the negotiators, Dayan expressed the opinion that the negotiations, if resumed, be conducted at the level of legal advisers, and he will probably express this opinion at the tripartite meeting.

Jerusalem views the importance of the meeting in Brussels as resting in the fact that talks are being resumed and in the attempt to thaw the freeze in the negotiations. At the same time it is being said that the meeting will only suceed if Egyptian inflexibility is thawed and, in view of Cairo's latest declarations, it is difficult to be optimistic about the chances for success. [end recording]

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE DECIDES TO STRENGTHEN SETTLEMENTS

TA211035Y Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Dec 78 p 6 TA

[By Yosef Zuri'el]

[Text] The Ministerial Committee for Settlement Affairs yesterday approved plans for strengthening existing settlements in Judaea and Samaria, which include paving internal roads to connect Elon More and Ari'el and shorten the way to An-Nabisalih.

In contrast to Gush Emunim's declared stance, the ministerial committee believes that at this stage the existing Judaea and Samaria settlements should be strengthened, particularly those which still have the status of a settlement, like Shilo and Bet El.

It was reported last night from the Gush Emunim secretariat that it has not yet been decided if and when Gush Emunim settlers will settle in a new site.

GUSH EMUNIM PROTESTS AGAINST POLICE FILES

TA211700Y Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 21 Dec 78 p 7 TA

[By Orli Azulay]

[Excerpt] The manifesto published last night by Gush Emunim in reaction to the opening of police files says: "This deed is a new height in the chain of steps taken by the Likud cabinet to oppress settlers and is a step that even the Alinement cabinet did not take. These acts include closing all of Samaria to Jewish passage, intentional beatings and confiscation of property.

"The members of Gush Emunim regard this act as proof that the cabinet agrees with the U.S. and Arab countries' argument that Jewish settlement in Israel is illegal. This act reflects the cabinet's moral collapse. As we are convinced that no law that forbids Jews to settle anywhere in their country can exist, we call upon the cabinet to proceed with the legal procedure and put us on trial. The threats on behalf of the cabinet to put us in jail will not deter us and we are informing the cabinet that we will continue our activity until the white paper prohibiting Jews to exercise their right to settle anywhere in their homeland is abolished."

Beni Katzover said last night that Gush Emunim believes that these steps are intended to discourage Gush Emunim after the cabinet had heard rumors that they intended to carry out settlement activity soon.

TEHRAN REPORTS ON 21 DECEMBER MAJLIS SESSION

LD2118547 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpts] The Majlis held a meeting at 0900 today under the chairmanship of Dr Javad Sa'id. The first pre-agenda speaker was Mr 'Ali Owsat-Yeganeh, the deputy from Bijar. He referred to the recent demonstrations and disturbances and said: Foreigners are taking advantage of the current crisis, and in order to achieve their own goals they are resorting to all kinds of intrigues and provocations. Through these provocations they are misdirecting the people and leading them against the country's interests. The BBC broadcasts provocative, rumormongering programs three times a day. It continues to carry colonial programs, with all their evil provocations. Foreign agents and those who plot against Iran are trying to confuse the public. And all these things reflect the evil intentions of foreigners--intentions which are patently obvious to our countrymen. He added: A continuation of the current crisis will endanger the country's independence and existence.

Mr Owsat-Yeganeh then referred to the events of the past and called upon the religious leaders, in these critical times, to guide the people toward national unity and soliarity, so that they may thwart any foreign and colonialist attempt to take undue advantage of the situation. The speaker stressed that the trial and punishment of those who have violated the people's social rights and misused public funds is an essential step that will narrow the gap between the government and the people.

The next speaker was Mr Latif Sheykholeslami, the deputy from Marivan. He said: When we study the history of nations and their national and patriotic struggles, we see that all such struggles and uprisings were aimed only at preserving their independence and honor. Iran's proud history, too, is replete with instances of sacrifices and the righteous struggle of patriots, who have always risen whenever Iran's independence and sovereignty has been subjected to colonial aggression or when the country's existence has been threatened. By defending the country's independence, the sovereignty of the Iranian nation and its nationhood, they have prevented Iran's independence from being sacrificed to the greedy designs of foreigners and xenophiles.

Referring to the fact that the Iranian nation has always risen to struggle against oppression, injustice, corruption, discrimination and illegalities, the speaker said: The Iranian nation's current uprising is a campaign against corruption and the corrupt. It is a campaign in defense of the national freedoms of thought and expression, and for the prosecution and punishment of those who, during the past 15 years, have plundered our national assets and public funds and have driven the people to rebellion. The people have no other objective than this.

He went on: The government must begin with absolute determination to prosecute and punish those who have caused the sorry events which have been felt throughout the country and which have grieved anyone who believes in the holy Islamic religion. Only then will the Iranian nation become convinced of the Government's good intentions and decisiveness.

The third pre-agenda speaker was Mr Mohammad Sadeq Farman, the deputy from Kashmar.

He referred to the government's program at the time it was seeking the Majlis vote of confidence and said: Unfortunately, the government has had no success in its 45 days in office. It has been unable to implement measures that will achieve real security and tranquillity and that will have a major impact in winning the people's general trust and confidence. He said that the discontent among the people in the cities and rural areas has caused problems in people's everyday lives.

Enumerating the people's problems and noting the clashes in certain parts of the country between the people and security forces, the speaker said: The long lines of people at bakeries and fuel distribution centers, as well as the extremely high cost of essential commodities in the shops, are all indications of a situation which is a cause for concern. What hurts everyone in the provinces these days is the people's lack of safety in the face of killings, beatings, injuries and, occassionally, the plundering and destruction of people's property. He referred to incidents in his constituency and demanded that the government institute legal proceedings against those responsible. He also submitted a question to the Majlis regarding the Kashmar incidents to be communicated to the government. He then referred to the incident at the Shahreza Hospital in Mashhad and demanded that those responsible be prosecuted.

Following this speech, Mr Mashari, the deputy from Kerman, described the current situation in the country and said: Our country is today going through a critical and crucial period. In these circumstances we have a crucial duty as representatives of the people. We should not be satisfied merely with speeches and questions, useless and unanswered as they are. The Iranian Majlis must, along with the Iranian nation, devise a fundamental solution to the country's problem. Otherwise, as long as these daily clashes continue, there will be no peace and security. What kind of situation do we have when in the name of peace and security people are being killed and are being turned against each other?

The deputy from Kerman said: I am ashamed once again of the incident that occurred at the entrance to a Kerman mosque where a number of people were killed and injured. I must say that the people are angry and fed up with what is happening in various parts of the country--in Kerman, Yazd, Mashhad, Esfahan and Shiraz. In conclusion, the Kerman deputy warned that the Iranian Majlis must devise a fundamental, decisive and urgent solution to the current problems and prevent all these killings.

Mr 'Enayatollah Qa'emi, the deputy from Abadeh, spoke in opposition to the government. He said: Everyone agrees that our homeland is in an exceptional situation. After years of silent suffering under the pressure of intolerable harshness and oppression, our nation's patience is now exhausted and its cry for justice is deafening the world. The Iranian nation's valiant movement to vindicate its rights, to establish justice and secure human freedoms has overwhelmed the world. Unless there is a sincere and reasonable response to this movement the tempest of emotion may lead to untold harm.

Mr Pirzadeh, the next speaker at the Majlis session today, said: No reasonable and patriotic individual wants chaos and anarchy. When General Azhari assumed power he spoke of respect for the law, but unfortunately reports reaching us indicate that people are being fired on in various cities and that people are being killed. This has led to a lack of security. This is against the law. Under principle nine of the constitution, people's lives, property, homes and honor must be immune from violation. Both the Iranian nation and the government must endeavor to uphold this principle.

In another part of his speech, Mr Pirzadeh said: The government's action must not be revanchist and vindictive in character. Rather, like a kind and patient father, it should have forbearance toward the rebelliousness of its sons. A nation that has watched for 15 years while aggressors and plunderers violated its rights and has patiently endured the days of its suffering cannot be expected to continue to remain indifferent in these circumstances and show no reaction in the face of all this discontent and the plundering of state funds by a group of countryless people.

In his speech, Mr Motovalli, the deputy from Sabzevar, referred to the incident in his constituency on Tasu'a and demanded that the government punish those responsible. In a lengthy speech the deputy from Sabzevar said: Let us seek a form of security and order in which human life is dear, not one in which people are subjected to a hail of bullets. If a rebellion and revolution come about because of what the people have suffered, let us try to make amends and not lose our composure. Gentlemen, the attitude the successive governments have so far adopted has created many problems for the country rather than solving any of its problems. The schools and universities are still closed and parents are concerned about the future of their children. Many factories are closed and business is stagnant. Government agencies do whatever they like and many are in a state of confrontation with the government. These, as well as other insoluble problems, place a heavy burden upon us all. I have asked the speaker several times to convene the Majlis legal commission so that we may discuss the country's fundamental issues. I now renew my previous request. I do not think we should go on our winter holidays while we are in such a state of limbo. Where can we go? Shall we go to our constituencies, where there are unpleasant reports all the time and everything is unstatisfactory? How can we continue to watch the people's general discontent and hardship?

The next speaker was Mr Khorshid, the deputy from Neyshabur. He said: When the prime minister presented the government's program to the Majlis, he referred to the country's chaotic and disturbed situation and said his task was to restore order and security. He added that in conjunction with the task he would arrest and deliver to justice those who had caused discontent, regardless of their rank and position. He also stated that since this required quick action, he would direct his efforts at mobilizing the judiciary within the framework of the constitution, abolish the laws which have limited the judiciary's jurisdiction, and create favorable conditions so that the judiciary can gain the necessary dynamism for its campaign against corruption. Unfortunately,the events that have been taking place in various parts of the country during the month or so since he took office prove that the government has failed to implement its program. The government has also been unsuccessful in its campaign against corruption and its efforts to mobilize the judiciary.

Recently, a wave of rumors has generated a good deal of concern among the people. We thought that the rumors would either be confirmed or denied and that the true facts would be made public. But unfortunately, after a long wait the Tehran public prosecutor, in a radio interview, confirmed that more than 11 billion tomans of noncommercial foreign currency had been exported from the country and, noting that 102 of those involved were included in the 178 names which appear in the list of foreign currency exporters, he referred only to the names of 45 people without supplying any figures on the excuse that their first names were not identified. What can one say about such coverups?

STRIKE ENDS AT ABADAN PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX

LD212048Y Tehran in English to Europe 2000 GMT 21 Dec 78 LD

[Text] The strike in Abadan's petrochemical company is over. The employees of the company returned to work yesterday following acceptance of some of their social demands by the management. Announcing this, a spokesman of the Abadan petrochemical company said that its products will be back on the market within the next 10 days.

AFP: DOCTORS THREATEN STRIKE, TEHRAN UNIVERSITY STILL OCCUPIED

TA221125Y Paris AFP in English 1110 GMT 22 Dec 78 TA

[Text] Tehran, 22 Dec (AFP)--About 1,000 doctors, dentists and professors demonstrated in Esfahan today to demand the release of three doctors arrested in the wake of the bloody incidents that occurred here and in nearby Nadjafbad 10 days ago. The demonstrators threatened to go on strike unless the arrested men are freed within three days.

Iranian secret police opened fire when demonstrators in Esfahan tried to storm their headquarters on Dec 11. Five demonstrators were reported killed.

In Tehran, the offices of the university chancellor are still occupied by 70 teachers who are demanding that the university be reopened. The university campus is under army occupation and about 100 people who tried to demonstrate yesterday were dispersed by the troops.

Parliament will officially recess tomorrow for its annual winter holiday but will, in fact, continue its sittings to hear the government's replies to outstanding questions, official sources indicated.

SECONDARY, ART SCHOOLS TO REOPEN 23 DECEMBER

LD221238Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 78 LD

[Excerpt] As of tomorrow, secondary and art schools in most parts of the country, including those in Tehran, will resume teaching activities, and thousands of pupils will attend classes.

A statement issued by Tehran's General Department of Education and Training announces that although some 3 months have passed since the beginning of the academic year, regrettably no teaching work has been done, and secondary and art schools have been closed most of the time. Should this educational disruption continue it is feared that the classes missed by pupils would not be made up even with the extra measures envisaged and that they might lose one academic year.

PARDONS FOR REST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING CONSIDERED

LD221250Y Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 22 Dec 78 LD

[Summary] During yesterday's open session of the National Consultative Assembly, a bill was presented by the justice minister for the destruction of the records of conviction of political prisoners already pardoned so that they may continue to live and work as normal people. In a telephone interview with our correspondent the justice minister, Dr Hoseyn Najari, said that there are some 200 political prisoners still in jail and their dossiers are being studied with the intention of pardoning them. Once pardoned they will not be tried anywhere. They will enjoy all the privileged of a pardon and those included in the bill presented to the parliament yesterday.

He also said that 30 committees have been set up in ministries and government organizations in order to conclude compilation of the dossiers on those accused of violations against people's rights and the treasury.

SANJABI ASKS SHAH TO ABDICATE; MONARCHY COULD REMAIN

LD220935Y Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 16 Dec 78 p 11 LD

[Ake Ringberg dispatch: "Go, Your Majesty: The Queen Can Remain"]

[Text] Tehran, 15 December--"Your Majesty: You have treated us worse than traitors. A revolutionary situation exists in Iran today; therefore we must seek a revolutionary solution. That is why we recommend, Your Majesty, that you leave the country."

That was the message to the shah from Iranian opposition leader Karim Sanjabi at their first meeting in 26 years. On Friday Dr Sadiqi described in detail to your DAGENS NYHETER correspondent the historic conversation in the Shah's palace.

Obviously the opposition can consider permitting Queen Farah Diba to remain in the country to play a central role after the shah's departure.

Dr Sanjabi received me at his villa in north Tehran, just a few kilometers from the shah's palace and near the snow-clad mountains. That is where he was arrested several months ago by SAVAK, the secret police, as he was about to hold an international press conference.

Sanjabi was held under house-arrest and says he was well treated. On Friday he vividly described his meeting with the shah.

"I was taken by the SAVAK chief to the palace by car," Sanjabi said as we sat in his villa on the ground floor. The talk with the shah was at all times correct, without any trace of bitterness or recriminations. It lasted over an hour.

I reminded the shah that it was 26 years since we last met. I reminded him that during and immediately afte. World War II Iran was occupied by Russian and British troops. Then they left the country, and for that the shah won the people's admiration and love. The people wanted to kiss and embrace the shah. They were boundlessly devoted.

Today the situation is radically different, Dr Sanjabi told the shah. A "substantial alteration" has occurred. A revolutionary situation now exists and so a revolutionary change must take place for the country to survive.

Therefore, Your Majesty, we in the National Front want you to leave the country. The queen can stay and participate in the work of establishing a council of state, in which she could play an important role.

That was the main topic of the talk between the shah and Dr Sanjabi in the shah's palace. Dr Sanjabi did not reveal how the shah reacted, but that was the first time such words have been uttered directly to the shah during his rule. They must have come as a shock to him.

The shah said: I cannot leave the country and I refuse to leave the country. The people obey me. Nobody else has my authority.

Refused

That was the shah's reply to the Iranian opposition leader's appeal to him to accept facts and to accept that he is no longer loved but rather despised and hated by his people.

But the shah in his turn had an invitation for Dr Sanjabi. He wanted Sanjabi to participate in a national coalition government, to include members of the National Front, army officers and religious leaders.

But, as reported in Friday's DAGENS NYHETER, Sanjabi rejected the shah's offer. He did so primarily for one reason.

He referred to the National Front's three-point principles which, first, describe the present monarchy as illegal; second, announce that no coalition will be formed with the present regime; and third, state that a new system must be built on the principle of democracy independence, Islamic principles and universal sufferage.

It was primarily the second point--the refusal to enter into a coalition--which Sanjabi emphasized in his talk with the shah.

Thus, the situation continues just as deadlocked as before: The shah refuses to relinquish total power (which nevertheless has been gradually eroded to a substantial extent during the events of recent months) and the opposition refuses to cooperate until the shah accepts the hard fact that the people want to be rid of him and, drawing the conclusion from that, gives up the throne and leaves the country...

Astonishment

The National Front's move, as conveyed to your DAGENS NYHETER correspondent by Dr Sanjabi, immediately aroused attention among diplomats and other political observers in Tehran. It was recalled that this is the first time the opposition has directly asked the shah to give up the throne and leave the country, but there was also a great deal of astonishment that the queen should be allowed to stay on and work for a future council of state.

That could only mean, it was recalled, that the monarchy itself will probably remain as an institution with the Queen (Farah Diba) as its temporary head, all in the expectation that the crown prince, now 18 years old, will be Iran's next monarch and shah. Political observers believe that time was against such a solution.

But the fact remains that Iranian opposition leader Karim Sanjabi, who since he last met the shah 26 years ago has been imprisoned on various occasions, openly told the shah that it is now time for him to pack his bags and go.

Triumph

It must have been a triumphant moment for Dr Sanjabi when, after decades in opposition, he could both reject the shah's invitation to join in a coalition government and courteously remind him of past wrongs.

It was the year after Mohammad Mossadeq was overthrown that the shah began his persecution of people in the National Front. Now Sanjabi reminded his majesty that Mossadeq was never against the shah personally but that his nationalization of Iran's oil at the beginning of the fifties was an attempt to free the country of economic and therefore political dependence on foreign countries. The National Front program for a future foreign policy has been directly influenced by those experiences.

Swamped

Today the opposition looks on Iran differently from 15 or 25 years ago; the shah's opponents today are more sophisticated, better educated and more demanding. They are also less inclined to accept any "wait-and-see" formula, and this impatience means that the front's declaration that it will accept a council of state, with the monarchy retained in the country, could rebound on Sanjabi and his friends if the polarization goes on too long.

It is possible, and some people say probable, that one day the National Front could, perhaps more quickly than expected, be swamped by a strong wave of as yet unorganized opposition comprising all sectors of Iranian society--intellectuals, religious elements, bazaar merchants, the dissatisfied members of the middle class hit by inflation, students from the lower middle class and also the great mass of workers and lumpenproletariat which, although unable to read and write, nevertheless know the political situation through their own experiences and by comparing themselves with others who have grabbed their share of the cake during the shah's oil boom.

INDIA

SPORADIC INCIDENTS IN PRO-GANDHI DEMONSTRATIONS 21 DEC

BK211614Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 78 BK

[Excerpts] The call for a bundh [strike] by the supporters of Mrs Gandhi in protest against her imprisonment was practically ignored in Delhi, Bhopal and several other places. Most commercial establishments, schools and shopping centers opened as usual.

At some places there were unruly demonstrations. In Bangalore, the Karnataka chief minister, Mr Dev Raj Urs, told newsmen today that stern action will be taken against those indulging in violence. Two persons were injured in police firing at two places--in Tunkur and Chitaldurg districts [in Karnataka].

In Hyderabad, 10 persons, including a deputy commissioner of police, were injured in violent incidents.

In Tamil Nadu, seven persons were burnt to death when a bus was set on fire near Nagercoil in Kanyankumari District.

In Bombay, a doubledecker bus was burnt in the morning.

Three hundred Congress-I workers were arrested in Delhi today. Among those arrested in Patna were the leader of the opposition in the Bihar assembly, Dr Jagannath Mishra, and the former assembly speaker, Mr H.N. Mishra.

Few Incidents 22 Dec

BK221016Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 22 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Despite a call given by the Congress-I to observe a bundh [strike] today in protest against the action taken by the Lok Sabha against Mrs Gandhi, life continues to be normal in West Bengal. The state chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, said people have foiled the attempt of the authoritarian forces to disrupt normal life. However, a watch is being kept so that nothing untoward happens. Life in Calcutta and different districts is more or less normal. Trains, buses and trams are running normal and attendance at various offices is satisfactory.

Some cases of obstruction and intimidation by Congress-I supporters have been reported. The police opened fire near Utarpara this morning. According to agency reports, the house of Prof Samar Guha, chairman of the parliament Privileges Committee, was attacked last night by some miscreants with bombs. According to the police, some glass panes were damaged but all the inmates are safe. A police picket has since been posted in front of the house.

In Bombay, life remained normal with most of the commercial establishments working as usual. Suburban train services and bus services are operating normally. However in Wardha District the police fired seven pounds of Arvi to disperse a violent mob. One person was injured in the firing. In Baroda also, the bundh call given by the Congress-I did not evoke any response.

In Bangalore, the situation is almost normal with no incidents reported. Buses are plying and attendance in offices is normal. In Belgaum, two Congress-I legislators with some others were arrested yesterday when they tried to stop trains in the Poona-Bangalore section near (Surhal) and Panchapur.

In Secundarabad, some youth workers of the Congress-I (?held up) the Vijayavada-bound Krishna Express for half an hour this morning. The police made some arrests. Following attacks on some buses, some services were withdrawn later in the day on some routes.

In Uttar Pradesh, Congress-I workers courted arrest at some places including Srinagar and Nainital.

YOUTH CONGRESS-I LEADER ARRESTED FOR AIRLINE HIJACKING

BK220326Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Mr Maypati Tripathi, a Youth Congress-I leader and the son of Mr Kamalapati Tripathi, leader of the opposition in the Rajya Sabha, was arrested in Lucknow yesterday on the charge of criminal conspiracy to hijack the Indian Airlines Boeing 737.

PTI quotes police sources in Lucknow to say that Mr Maypati Tripathi was the brain behind the hijacking.

SRV'S NGUYEN DUY TRINH STOPS OVER EN ROUTE TO KABUL

BK220908Y Delhi ISI in English 0849 GMT 22 Dec 78 BK

[Text] Vietnam's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Nguyen Duy Trinh, discussed the situation in Southeast Asia and bilateral questions with Minister of State for External Affairs Somarendra Kundun in New Delhi on 21 December, reports PTI.

The meeting took place at Delhi Airport when Trinh made a brief halt on his way to Kabul.

Trinh is arriving in New Delhi on 28 December on a 3-day official visit when he will have talks with Vajpayee, minister of external affairs.

KUNDUN: REPATRIATION OF NATIONALS FROM IRAN NOT WARRANTED

BK220835Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 22 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Somarendra Kundun, told the Rajya Sabha today that the situation in Iran does not warrant any action by the government to arrange for the repatriation of Indian nationals. He told the house during question time that the situation is being closely followed and appropriate action will be taken when necessary. He also informed the house that of 1,750 Indian nationals who were assisted by the Indian Embassy in Tehran to leave the country, most of them were illegal immigrants.

PAKISTAN

BHUTTO, OTHER APPELLANTS CONCLUDE COURT ARGUMENTS

BK211748Y Karachi Domestic Service in English 1700 GMT 21 Dec 78 BK

[Text] In the Supreme Court hearing the appeals in the murder case of Mr Mohammad Ahmed Khan, the four other appellants --Mian Mohammad Abbas, Ghulam Mustafa, Arshad Iqbal and Rana Iftikhar--today made submissions after the conclusion of the submission of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. The four appellants reiterated their confession and submitted that they were involved in the murder on the orders of their superior officers who were following the orders of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. They perpetrated illegal acts at the behest of Masood Mahmud and Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto.

Mian Mohammad Abbas stated that he involved himself in the commission of the crime under coercion and pressure. He refused to be a party to the murder of Mr Ahmed Reza Kasuri, but he was threatened by Masood Mahmud that his dead body would be found on the road and also his family's life and honor would be destroyed. So he had to carry out the orders reluctantly. He said Masood Mahmud told him that he had been directed by Z. A. Bhutto to get rid of Mr Kasuri. He also tried to resign twice, but his resignations were not accepted by Masood Mahmud. He said he contracted a heart ailment due to involvement in the murder conspiracy.

Ghulam Mustafa submitted that he only carried out the orders of his superiors. He said the defunct FSF [Federal Security Force] indulged in all kinds of crimes, including murder, kidnaping and disturbing public meetings of the opposition. He said the FSF personnel were made to take an oath that they would be faithful to the then prime minister. The oath was later withdrawn when the murder case was reported. He said he committed the sin of murder under duress and compulsion for which he was ashamed and sought justice in the court. He submitted that Masood Mahmud had no enmity toward the family of Mr Ahmed Reza Kasuri, and whatever wrong deeds were committed by the FSF, they were ordered to do so by the high-ups. Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto could not wriggle out his responsibility.

Ghulam Mustafa said it was not correct on the part of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto to say that he was not aware of the activities of the FSF. He said that Dalai camp [for political prisoners] was in Azad Kashmir, but two contingents of the [federal security] force were posted there. FSF was kidnaping opposition leaders and ulemas [religious scholars] and planting explosives in Mansura--the headquarters of the Jammat-i-Islami--and at Lahore railway station to disturb Asghar Khan's procession. All these were politically motivated activities, and personally Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto could not be unaware of them.

Arshad Iqbal said refusal to carry out illegal orders of the FSF and of Masood Mahmud led to serious consequences for the officers and (?soldiers). He said once he tried to leave the force, but was subjected to assualt twice and in one attack his elder brother was killed. No case was allowed to register about his brother's murder. He said the FSF's officials were involved in the murder under the orders of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto through Masood Mahmud. He said FSF officials had no enmity with Mr Ahmed Reza Kasuri or his father.

Maulana Iftikhar, reiterating his confession, said that the murder of the father of Mr Ahmed Reza Kasuri was committed at the behest of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto through Masood Mahmud. He said Z.A. Bhutto was personally responsible for the murder of Mr Mohammad Ahmed Khan. Rana Iftikhar said he took part in the commission of the crime under threats to his life and the honor of his family.

Earlier, concluding his submission, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto submitted that the murder case was based on mala fide and the trial court was biased against him. He maintained that there were many gaps and lacunae in the judgment of the trial court and records. He said he was still confident in the Supreme Court and was confident that it would uphold the majesty of the law.

The prosecution counsel, Mr Ijaz Hussain Batalvi, replying to the written defense note about the further examination of the three witnesses with regard to their statements contained in the zimnis [subpoenas] submitted that the points raised are not capable of breaking down the witnesses.

About the statement of Ghulam Hussain, he submitted that it was substantially and fundamentally like his other statements. About Masood Mahmud's statement, he said that there was precious little in it on which he can be examined further. As far as the statement of Abdul Hai Niazi was concerned, it did not fall within that category.

The court will decide on Saturday whether to recall these witnesses for further examination or not.

BANGLADESH FOREIGN MINISTER CONTINUES VISIT

BK220524Y Karachi Overseas Service in English 0030 GMT 22 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The high-ranking visiting Bangladesh delegation led by the foreign minister, Prof. Mohammad Shamsul Haq, held wide ranging talks with the Pakistan side led by the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, in Islamabad yesterday. The two sides exchanged views on international, regional and bilateral issues of mutual interest in a friendly and cordial atmosphere marked with utmost sincerity and frankness.

The talks revealed the identity of approach to regional and international problems and a wide area for meaningful cooperation.

In the afternoon the Bangladesh foreign minister, accompanied by the members of his delegation, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq. The adviser on foreign affairs and the foreign secretary were also present on the occasion. The Bangladesh foreign minister was later at a luncheon given by the president.

The adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, gave a dinner last night in honor of the Bangladesh foreign minister, Prof Mohammad Shamsul Haq.

SRI LANKA

GOVERNMENT REVISES SOME PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PRICES

BK211107Y Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 21 Dec 78 BK

[Text] The OPEC decision to increase oil prices has compelled the government to increase the price of petrol, but the prices of kerosene, diesel and furnace oil, which have a significant effect on the middle and lower income group, will be maintained at their previous level despite the government having to bear a heavy subsidy bill on their account.

The new petrol price effective from today is 20 rupees for a gallon of lanka super and 18 rupees and 50 cents for a gallon of lanka ordinary. At current world prices the government subsidy amounts to 5 rupees 37 cents per gallon in respect of kerosene, 2 rupees and 90 cents for auto diesel, 2 rupees and 50 cents on industrial diesel oil, and 2 rupees and 10 cents for furnace oil.

The total subsidy on these fuels, now at 450 million rupees a year, will go up by another 300 million rupees consequent upon the government's decision not to increase their price despite the increase imposed by producing countries.

BULGARIAN CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS CP'S KEUNEMAN

AU1717000Y Sofia RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Bulgarian 11 Dec 78 pp 1, 7 AU

[Interview by Plamen Georgiev, RABOTNICHESKO DELO special correspondent in Sri Lanka, with Peter Keuneman, general secretary of the Sri Lanka Communist Party Central Committee--time and place not given]

[Text] Plamen Georgiev, special correspondent of the daily RABOTNICHESKO DELO in Sri Lanka, met and interviewed Comrade Peter Keuneman, secretary general of the Sri Lanka Communist Party Central Committee, on certain topical questions concerning the struggle of the communist and leftwing forces in that country.

Question: Comrade Keuneman, how would you describe the most important characteristics of the socio-political situation in your country today?

Answer: The last 20 years were marked by the important role of the movement for political independence and the important role of the struggle for socialism in Sri Lanka's development. Thus, 60 percent of the country's economy is nationalized today and the control of the state over various sectors in the country's life is considerable. In July 1977, however, the United National Party, under the leadership of Junius Richard Jayewardene, took over the government and since then there has been a return to the historically discredited policy of reviving the developing capitalism. This is very clearly apparent from the measures introduced within the 17 months which have elasped since the Junius Jayewardene government came to power. In opening the so-called "free trade" zone, conditions were created likely to involve our country once more in the web of foreign capital while the upper of the national bourgeoisie will accumulate more and more wealth at the expense of the millions of working people. The new government relies upon the large West European and U.S. capital for resolving the crucial socioeconomic problems of the country, such as mass unemployment--particularly among youth--inflation and increases in the prices of basic goods.

Following the example of the discredited free market policy by linking the country to its former masters, the Jayewardene government is trying to neutralize the crisis in our country's economy. The nationalized sector is already being dissolved, by the handing over of individual sectors to private firms or by introducing private control over the system of the nationalized economic sector, such as the so-called managerial agencies. All this provokes the opposition of the people's masses and of the workers class.

Today everyone is fully aware of the fact that the policy of the present government means the creation of prerequisites for the development of capitalism and neocolonialism. It is, however, particularly alarming that the ruling class has recourse to the most repressive legislative measures and that it is trying to encroach upon the democratic rights and freedoms achieved by the people. Thus, strikes and demonstrations have recently been banned by administrative measures.

Question: Under the present difficult situation, in your opinion what are the new tasks facing communists and leftwing forces?

Answer: The Communist Party of Sri Lanka is standing in the front ranks of the struggle waged by the workers and other democratic forces whose task it is to defend the social and political achievements of our people. An active alliance is being created in our country among trade unions, which are defending the social achievements of the working people and the rights of the workers class. We have a united leftwing front with the Socialist Party. The 10th Congress of the Sri Lanka Communist Party adopted a decision to consolidate and expand the influence of this alliance among all strata of the Sri Lanka people. We prepared a joint program aimed at political consolidation of the left-wing forces in the country. Our immediate task is to reorganize the united leftwing front on a new basis. We are now establishing committees of this front in various provinces of the country. A beginning has been made and the positive development is being consolidated.

We still see numerous faults in the work of the country's leftwing forces and symptoms of what Lenin used to call the "infantile disorder." Nevertheless, there are quite a few elements in the political orientation of the leftwing forces that deserve attention. I must categorically stress in this connection that the communists of Sri Lanka have nothing in common with the Maoist groups which today are the allies of the most violent reaction and do not spare any efforts in introducing a split in the organized struggle against the attacks of the bourgeoisie.

Question: Would you like to mention the importance of the ideas of Marxism-Leninism for Sri Lanka's sociopolitical development?

Answer: The Marxist-Leninist ideas are of essential importance for the comprehensive social development of the Sri Lanka people. The Great October Socialist Revolution inspired the souls of our people's masses. The enthusiasm for the example of the rejection of the oppression of capitalism by the Russian proletariat was tremendous. This was the greatest political event of our century and it played a decisive role in the development and expansion of the anticolonial struggle and in the struggle for the national liberation of peoples throughout the world. The young Soviet state, as early as the first years of its existence, won the sympathy of a wide strata of the people of Sri Lanka, and in particular of the young generation, with the planned socioeconomic development and with the Soviet people's achievements in all fields of material and intellectual life.

The achievements of real socialism--an embodiment of the great ideas of Marxism-Leninism--are still inspiring the workers class and the people's masses of the people of Sri Lanka. They have deep feelings of affection for the socialist countries, whose material and moral support is invaluable to our people. This is an essential political factor which cannot be ignored by the reactionary forces and the rich bourgeoisie which today has seized power.

We are living under the conditions of a difficult ideological struggle. In its fire, however, the will of the large people's masses of Sri Lanka is being tempered for a happier and more just life, for progress and social advancement inspired by the example of the fraternal socialist countries.